FBIS DAILY REPORT
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TASS CITES U.S. NUCLEAR TEST 18 MARCH

LD191019 Moscow TASS in English 0855 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 19 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko:

The Nevada test range has again, for the third time since the beginning of the current year, been rocked by a new explosion. A nuclear device was detonated in a deep tunnel drilled under the Rainer-Mesa Plateau at 10:28 a.m. local time on March 18. As the TASS correspondent was told by Jim Boyer, a spokesman for the command of the test range, its yield was "less than 20 kilotonnes." In his words, the test code-named Middle Note was "arms-related."

Has a release of radioactivity into the environment as a result of the nuclear blast been registered? No, nothing of the kind has happened, the spokesman for the test range said. This is by no means an idle question, since on April 10, last year, after the nuclear test codenamed "Mighty Oak" radioactivity was released into the tunnel. As the AP news agency said, this resulted in the destruction of measuring instruments "worth millions of dollars". This was far from being the single case. Instances of the release of radioactivity into the atmosphere were repeatedly registered after the U.S. nuclear tests. A whole number of similar examples is cited by the authors of the report recently prepared by the working group of the Centre for International Security and Arms Control of Stanford University.

Thus, on March 13, 1964, after the U.S. nuclear test codenamed "Pike" radiation reached the Mexican border. On April 14, 1965, as a result of a nuclear test, radiation reached Canada. In December 1968 traces of the nuclear test project Schooner were registered by four Canadian tracking stations, as well as in the territory of Mexico. A major release of radioactivity occurred in 1970 as a result of a nuclear test code-named "Baneberry". The soil cracked over the place where the blast was conducted, a radioactive cloud soared into the atmosphere and passed over the western part of the USA and the Canadian territory. Radiation leakages took place in 1981 as a result of the nuclear test Riola and in 1984 after the nuclear test Agrini.

Common sense prompts that it is high time to put an end to nuclear tests to stop the death-carrying nuclear conveyor. Yet, the Washington Administration is turning a deaf ear to the voice of reason. In disregard of world public demands, the USA is continuing nuclear experiments in Nevada Desert aimed at modernising the already existing nuclear warheads and creating fundamentally new types of weapons, including nuclear-pumped lasers for the "Star Wars" programme.

U.S. 'UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS' ABOUT USSR TESTS

LD181118 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0749 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 18 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

On Tuesday the U.S. State Department admitted that, as a result of at least two underground nuclear tests conducted at the Nevada test range, there were incidents of "seepages" of radioactive gases into the atmosphere: On 25 September 1980, and on 31 March 1984.

A spokesman for the State Department assured that "barely detectable" levels of radioactivity were detected within the test site boundaries only, but he admitted the very fact of the incidents.

In the light of this admission, one is puzzled by the State Department's assertion that "since 1970 there have been no ventings from U.S. nuclear tests".

At a recent briefing a State Department spokesman maintained that, as a result of Soviet nuclear tests, there had been releases of radiation and that radioactive debris had allegedly been blown beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union.

When he was asked whether he could name a country or countries in the atmosphere of which the said radioactive debris had been allegedly detected, he had to answer briefly: No.

When asked how in this context did matters stand with U.S. nuclear tests, the spokesman did not give an intelligible answer.

By its admission the Department of State is obviously trying to confuse the issue still further and, besides, is reaffirming its desire to lay the blame at somebody else's door.

It is well known in Washington that no country announced the detection of radioactive material over its territory as a result of Soviet underground nuclear tests.

Moreover, through the unfounded accusations being levelled at the Soviet Union and the assertions about the 'harmlessness' of U.S. tests, the administration would like to play down indignation around the world and in the United States itself over Washington's unwillingness to contribute in practice to curbing the arms race, and first of all, to agree to ending nuclear tests.

The Soviet Union observed its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions, for a year and a half. The moratorium had to be discontinued only owing to the stand taken by the United States.

Throughout the Soviet moratorium, the United States is known to have gone ahead with an intensive program of nuclear tests during the development of new types of nuclear weapons, including SDI-related systems, for the purpose of gaining military superiority over the Soviet Union.

To distract attention, the administration is busy turning out various kinds of "reports" and "surveys" about alleged Soviet "violations" of almost all Soviet-U.S. treaties and agreements in the field of arms control. At the same time Washington prefers "not to take note of" not only documented Soviet rebuttals of these fanciful allegations but also reasoned statements by U.S. specialists. So, for instance, the White House, the State Department and the Pentagon have all so far "not taken note of" a report published here in February by a group of eminent scientists prepared for Stanford University or of research by the authoritative Defense Information Center in Washington, both of which demolish the allegations about "Soviet violations."

PRESIDENTIAL ARMS REPORT CALLED 'PROVOCATION'

PM121427 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Gan dispatch: "Fabrications Called a 'Report'"]

[Text] Washington, 11 Mar -- It has already become traditional in Washington that whenever a ray of hope shines through in resolving key problems of USSR-U.S. relations, it is at once followed by a provocation calculated to poison the atmosphere. The Presidential report "On Soviet Nonobservance of Arms Control Agreements," sent to the U.S. Congress today, can only be called an ill-intentioned provocation.

Although sealed by the President's signature, that report is a disgraceful propaganda concoction imbued from start to finish -- witness the title alone! -- with gross slander against the Soviet Union. The compilers of the forgery balk at nothing -- neither at the blatant lack of proof nor at the requirements of elementary decency. Everything is adjusted to fit a fabricated postulate, according to which the USSR is said not to fulfill its adopted pledges.

Our country is accused of violating essentially all arms control treaties, including SALT I, SALT II, the ABM Treaty, the 1963 treaty banning nuclear weapons in three environments, the convention on the prohibition of biological and toxin weapons, the 1925 Geneva protocol on chemical weapons....

All the "accusations" without exception rest on the words "perhaps," "possibly," "potentially possible," "probable." In a number of instances it is acknowledged that "there is no confirmation" or "there is insufficient evidence to fully evaluate Soviet observance of pledges." Such reservations do not embarrass political saboteurs. Without a twinge of conscience they substitute for the lack of facts forced expressions of "alarm" and "concern" or simply slander, which is sometimes ridiculously primitive. The authors, for example, consider as one of the "indicators" of Soviet "insincerity" the fact that the Soviet Union... "carried out a nuclear explosion soon after it announced its intention to do so." Of course, they breathe not a word about the fact that the United States refused to join the Soviet moratorium, throwing down an arrogant challenge to public demands.

Equally clumsy are the attempts to slander the USSR's devotion to strict observance of the SALT II and ABM Treaties even though, as is known, the United States itself has already buried the first of them and is now stealing up on the second, which hampers plans for the militarization of space. "The USSR has repeatedly violated SALT II and undertaken other actions incompatible with the treaty's provisions... We have seen no reduction in the rate of buildup of Soviet strategic forces. We are concerned at the Soviet military threat... We feel profound concern at Soviet nonobservance of the ABM Treaty..." -- such slanderous declarations pepper the whole report or, at any rate, its "unclassified version" disseminated by the White House. You can imagine what its "classified version" is crammed with!

These lies are being exposed even in the United States itself. Last month, in particular, arms control experts from Stanford University in their detailed report convincingly refuted Washington's arguments, arriving at the conclusion that the USSR's record on the fulfillment of treaty pledges "is good." [pargraph continues]

The same conclusion was also drawn by M. Gallagher, who dealt with military-political questions at the CIA for 26 years and believes that "the administration's actions are dictated by its long-standing ideological prejudices and political considerations" -- primarily by the desire to "secure support for an arms buildup by emphasizing the ubiquity of the Soviet threat."

Be that as it may, this report -- already the fifth in recent years -- gives a clear idea of the purpose of the "Soviet violations" myth created by the administration. In fact, its authors have no intention of playing hide-and-seek and write in black on white: "These Soviet actions undermine the political trust necessary for the conclusion of new treaties... They call in question the advantages of arms control in the security sphere..." Commenting on the report, one of the chief "hawks" -- Adelman, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency - was still more straightforward and impudent: "The news is that there is no news. The USSR continues to deceive. For arms control to have a future, the Soviet Union must rectify its behavior."

Only a naive person could believe the "chance nature" of the coincidence in time of this latest slanderous ballyhoo with the emergence of a real opportunity to conclude a USSR-U.S. agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe.

NAZARKIN URGES OUTER SPACE WEAPONS AGENCY

LD171805 Moscow TASS in English 1756 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva March 17 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Korzhev reports:

At the disarmament conference which is under way here Yuriy Nazarkin, head of the Soviet delegation, came up with a proposal to examine a possibility of creating a system of international control over the non-permitting of any weapons to outer space. The system would provide for the setting up of an international inspectorate with the right of access to all the objects which are to be put into orbit and deployed in outer space. Under the supervision of the inspectorate space vehicles could be launched.

The Soviet representative urged to speed up the coordination of a convention on the banning of radiological weapons. He said that it was necessary, along with it or in one package, to begin drawing up a corresponding international agreement under which states would pledge not to attack peaceful nuclear facilities.

Speaking today instead of the minister of foreign affairs of Norway who died recently, Trond Bakkevig, personal adviser to the minister, said that outer space should be used only for peaceful purposes. He pointed out that in a nuclear age no one should try and ensure one's own security at the expense of others. One should quest for zones of common interests and for alternatives to the existing situation. The Norwegian representatives welcomed the results of the Reykjavik meeting and the latest developments in East-West relations, specifically, on the problem of the elimination of intermediate-range missiles in Europe, and expressed hope for the early reaching of an agreement to this effect between the USSR and the U.S.

Konstantin Tellalov, head of the Bulgarian delegation, said that the Soviet proposal on the elimination of Soviet and American intermediate-range missiles in Europe was another manifestation of the Soviet Union's goodwill in its quest for ways and means for resolving the nuclear disarmament problem.

"The concluding of a corresponding agreement would become an event of epoch-making significance. From the political point of view it would ensure the healing of a deep wound in Europe, would consolidate trust among countries and international security".

Representatives of Bulgaria, Norway, and the GDR pointed out as well the need for stepping up the work of the conference on other items of the agenda, specifically, on the problem of stopping nuclear tests and banning nuclear weapons.

PRAVDA ON INF CURB PROSPECTS, SHEVARDNADZE TOUR

PM161509 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Vladimir Peresada "International Review"]

[Text] Acclaimed by the Whole World [subhead]

Last week M.S. Gorbachev's 28 February statement remained at the core of discussions and reflections by sociopolitical circles in dozens of countries and commentaries by the press of all orientations, just as it was in the first few days of March. It can be said that it continues to excite the world. Here is a typical feature. As more reactions emerge, the more clearly we can perceive a unique fact: a worldwide positive assessment of the proposal for the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe.

To what can this be attributed? First, I think it can be attributed to the actual scope of the Soviet initiative. After all it is clear that, on a broad scale, its implementation would accord with the interests of countries not only in Europe but also in Asia and the Western Hemisphere. Second, to the fact that the USSR's proposal lays real foundations for practical actions. "Having withdrawn the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe from the total package of arms which were discussed in Reykjavik and having called for the immediate conclusion of a separate agreement on this problem, the Soviet leader has achieved the withdrawal of the most difficult obstacle in the way of the decisive stage of East-West talks," according to the Bonn newspaper GENERAL-ANZEIGER. This assessment is essentially the same as most other assessments in Western countries, including the United States. This is an admission of an abiding fact: By means of its proposal the Soviet Union has taken a major step toward the West, making it possible not only to bring the positions closer but also to elaborate a detailed agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe.

What specifically are we talking about? Let me recall that it was agreed at the USSR-U.S. meeting in Reykjavik that the USSR and the United States would eliminate all their medium-range missiles in Europe within 5 years. Within the same period the number of Soviet missiles of this class in the Asian part of our territory would be reduced to 100 warheads with the understanding that the United States could retain the same number of medium-range missile warheads in its national territory.

It is envisaged that, as soon as an agreement on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe is signed, the USSR would withdraw from the GDR and the CSSR, in agreement with these countries' governments, the longer-range operational-tactical missiles which were stationed there as countermeasures to the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in West Europe. Regarding other missiles for operational-tactical purposes, the USSR is prepared to embark at once on talks about their reduction and complete elimination.

Now, since Washington has accepted the Soviet proposal in principle, it is up to the USSR-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva to immediately prepare a joint draft treaty on medium-range missiles. Even though the seventh round of these talks ended a few days ago, the group dealing with the problem of medium-range missiles is continuing its work by mutual agreement. This unusual but no doubt positive event is directly linked with the soviet initiative. Our proposal was immediately placed on the negotiating table, and a U.S. draft treaty was submitted just before the end of the round. Even though it is complicated and overloaded with technical details, there is no question that everything in it that corresponds with the meaning and spirit of the Reykjavik decisions will be received by us in a businesslike and constructive fashion. Much intense work lies ahead, and the Soviet side is ready for it.

Not To Miss the Chance [subhead]

For the talks to be fruitful, what is primarily necessary is a political atmosphere contributing to this. It is here, however, that matters are far from simple. It is, after all, no secret that both in the United States and in West European NATO countries there are influential circles which are appalled by the very idea of reducing the nuclear arsenals. Former ardent fans of the "zero option" on Euromissiles, now they make no secret of the fact that they were bluffing and are using their press to threaten some sort of "dangerous consequences" from the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. They have also launched a collection of diverse conditions, "provisos," and so on. Their obvious goal is to disrupt the atmosphere and distract attention from the essential points.

One of the ruses is the emphasis placed on the question of "inspection and verification." This question is now being treated as almost more important than the future agreement itself. A conference of representatives of the United States and European NATO countries on whose territories the U.S. medium-range missiles are stationed, held a few days ago in Washington, was especially dedicated to it. What does it all boil down to? According to THE WASHINGTON POST, it boils down to "presenting the Soviet Union with the harshest demands ever made regarding on-site inspection, which would make it not just very difficult but simply impossible."

It could not be said more cynically. Why is such a play on verification possible? Simply because our position on this question is diligently kept a secret from the public in the West. All this is irresponsible and fickle. After all, the Soviet Union is interested as much as the United States in reliable verification of the observance of accords. It would not be inappropriate to recall that it was Washington that repeatedly rejected in the past the Soviet proposals on verification, including those envisaging on-site inspection, and the initiatives on the utilization of international inspections. Verification poses no problem for the Soviet Union provided, of course, that it is commensurate concerning the United States.

There are also other obstructionist capers. This, for example, is how far K. Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, has gone. Using the tone of an ultimatum, he declared at a news conference that the 100 warheads which are envisaged to remain in the Asian party of the USSR territory must without question be stationed wherever the Americans indicate. In such an event, it would be logical to assume that the Soviet Union, in its turn, would be free to make demands as to where the 100 U.S. warheads would be. Nothing of the sort! "This is not up to them," Adelman said. "We will leave the warheads wherever we want."

One could, of course, make allowances for the fact that Adelman is famous as an outright "hawk." It must be borne in mind, however, that there is a whole pack of people like him in Washington. After all, a swoop by hawks is the only term to describe the report "On Soviet Nonobservance of Arms Control Agreements" sent to the U.S. Congress a few days ago. Everything contained in this forgery, which incidentally is the fifth in the last few years, fits in with the fabricated premise that the USSR apparently does not honor its pledges under the SALT I, SALT II, ABM, and other treaties.

Why have they felt anew the need for this lie, which, incidentally, has already been refuted in the United States itself by both university experts and the Center for Defense Information public organization and even within the CIA itself. The reason why is clear: to step up the propaganda of the USSR's "destructive image" now that a real opportunity has emerged to conclude an agreement on medium-range missiles and, in the event the talks fail through the fault of the United States, to shift responsibility to the Soviet side.

Is the new secret directive on military policy in space, just signed by Secretary of Defense Weinberger, not an equally provocative action? It is reported that it envisages an entire package of measures within the framework of the "Star Wars" program, including preparations for the creation [sozdaniye] of military space stations. This directive also appeared at the height of the move toward accord on medium-range missiles in Europe.

Meanwhile, people in the United States know perfectly well that, while separating out the problem of these missiles now, the USSR, as before, considers it highly important to reach agreement on the substantial reduction and subsequent elimination of strategic weapons which, of course, must be conditional on a decision to prevent the stationing of weapons in space in view of the organic interconnection of these questions. They know this, and yet they are still trying to erect artificial barriers across the path of freeing Europe from part of the nuclear burden and of nuclear disarmament as a whole.

Everything indicates that the struggle for a nuclear-free European home will be far from easy. Despite the difficulties, however, the Soviet side proceeds from the premise that the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe is possible, and it is prepared to contribute to it by all means. As a spokesman of the USSR Foreign Ministry declared, the Soviet delegation at the Geneva talks has clear instructions to pursue the elaboration of a specific and reliable agreement within the briefest possible period. We expect the same constructive approach from the United States.

For Security in Asia [subhead]

"The Soviet leadership supplements its antimissile pressure in Europe with a new round of peace offensive in Asia." This is how the Indian newspaper PATRIOT both figuratively and correctly described the visit to Australia, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam which USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze completed this week.

These countries differ from one another, if only from the viewpoint of national background. Let alone the fact that some of them differ sharply in terms of their social systems and foreign policy principles. Take capitalist Australia, for example, which belongs to the ANZUS bloc together with the United States or, as another example, Vietnam which is an active participant in the Nonaligned Movement and equal member of the socialist community. These states do have something in common. They are situated in the same -- vast and troubled -- Asian and Pacific region.

The route taken by the Soviet minister is directly linked with the USSR's desire to ensure that this region, where a considerable part of our own territory lies, is neither a source of tension nor an arena of military confrontation. The subject of the struggle for security in Asia and the Pacific was the main topic of all talks conducted by the leader of Soviet diplomacy in the course of his trip.

Our desire to discuss this topic time and again is based on the obvious fact that tension and worries can be reduced only through common joint efforts by states in the region. A need for such efforts does exist, and a major one at that.

Recently there has been a noticeable stepping up of attempts by U.S. imperialist circles to use the Asian and Pacific region as yet another zone of global military-political confrontation. The Pentagon is striving to create there a zone for the deployment of forward-based nuclear means, like the zone already existing in Europe and the contiguous Atlantic.

Even though two of the Pacific states with nuclear weapons -- the USSR and the PRC -- have pledged not to be the first to use them, the United States has stationed delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons and nuclear warheads in one of the crisis zones, the south of the Korean peninsula. U.S. fighter-bombers meant to deliver nuclear strikes are stationed on Japanese territory. Right now the annual "Team Spirit" U.S.-South Korean maneuvers are being held once again to the south of the 38th parallel. Plans are being batched to knock together a Washington-Seoul-Tokyo bloc.

The Soviet Union, and this was proved once again by the USSR foreign minister's trip, invariably opposes the U.S. "reliance on force" with a program to improve the situation in the region and to involve it in the process of creating an all-embracing system of international security. This program, set out in M.S. Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok, just like the concept of building a nuclear-free and nonviolent world enshrined in the Delhi Declaration, provides a political basis for any "round of the peace offensive" by the USSR in Asia, including the latest.

Observers note the growing popularity of the USSR's approach toward Asian and Pacific affairs and of its course of strengthening international security as a whole. Full support for the Soviet Union's peace-loving policy was declared anew by the leaders of fraternal Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The joint documents which have been published say that Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia can continue to count on the Soviet Union's invariable support in resolving tasks involving the defense of freedom and independence, the development of all-round cooperation, cohesion, and mutual assistance between the three Indochina states, the improvement of the situation in the region, and the establishment of lasting peace and stability there.

The talks demonstrated proximity or coincidence of positions with Indonesia on many fundamental problems of our time, including questions of curbing the arms race. The Indonesian side expressed support for the constructive ideas underlying the speeches by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in Vladivostok and Delhi. There was confirmation of mutual interest in the further strengthening and expansion of our relations which, as is well known, have had both high and low points.

There can be no question that points of contact were also found with Australia. Both sides spoke in favor of the deepening of political dialogue and the development of broad and stable cooperation. [paragraph continues]

Canberra highly appraised our initiative on medium-range missiles in Europe, while the Soviet side emphasized that the USSR has joined the Rarotonga Treaty in support of the efforts of Australia and like-minded neighboring countries in the region to create a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific.

The situation in Southeast Asia, including the situation around Cambodia, was discussed at different stages of the trip. Advocating a most speedy political settlement around Cambodia, the Soviet Union believes that the basis for such a settlement has been outlined in the well known proposals by the PRK Government and the joint foreign policy documents of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and it supports their approach toward this question. The USSR's firm intention to further pursue a line of developing friendly relations with countries situated in Southeast Asia, and with ASEAN countries in particular, was also expressed during the trip.

Western propaganda, and U.S. propaganda in particular, has been claiming recently that the growing activeness of Soviet diplomacy in Asia and the Pacific is apparently "preparation for expansion." I assume the visits which have taken place have proved clearly enough the groundlessness of these fabrications about our country and its policy, whose aims are nothing but mutual understanding, respect for other states' interests, and equality and partnership for the sake of a nuclear-free and nonviolent world.

NUNN: NEW ABM INTERPRETATION 'SERIOUS ERROR'

LD141459 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 14 TASS -- TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin reports:

Senator Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that the Reagan administration's claims on the legality of its intention to take a "broad interpretation" of the 1972 Soviet-American ABM Treaty ran counter to the entire record of the negotiations which had preceded the signing of the document, its spirit and letter. The White House needs a new interpretation of the treaty for an unlimited deployment of strike space weapons under the Reagan "Star Wars" programme.

Addressing the Senate on Friday, S. Nunn said that after a thorough study of the record of the negotiations, treaty articles, the process of its ratification and the behaviour of the two countries, he made the following firm conclusion: The Nixon administration had made a thorough statement to the Senate during the ratification that the treaty banned the development and testing of mobile, space-based (exotic) weapons. This was how the Senate understood and approved it. This was the opinion (contrary to the U.S. State Department's allegations) held by the following U.S. administrations, including the Reagan administration, up to the year 1985.

A change in the treaty's interpretation, he went on to way, would mean that the U.S. President had signed one document with the Soviet Union and the Senate had ratified a different one. The Senate which is constitutionally responsible and a guarantor of treaties, was not even consulted. "To say that this is a woefully inadequate foundation for a major policy and legal change is a vast understatement. The (Reagan) administration is wrong in its analysis of the Senate ratification debate. It is wrong in its analysis of the record of subsequent practices... and is wrong in its analysis of the negotiating record itself," the committee chairman pointed out.

The senator warned that the present administration made a "serious error" in its position on a key issue by switching over to a "broader interpretation" of the ABM treaty.

BELGIUM RECONSIDERS MISSILE DEPLOYMENT

LD191829 Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Paris MArch 19 TASS -- In view of the latest Soviet proposals for the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, Belgium has drawn up a procedure making it possible not to deploy those 32 American missiles which have not yet been introduced in its territory. This announcement has been made here by Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens after his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand. This moratorium of a sort, as the Belgian Government characterises it, should contribute to the conclusion of a Soviet-American agreement to eliminate nuclear missiles of this type in Europe.

MOSCOW NOTES EASE OF COUNTERMEASURES TO SDI

LD171131 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Boris Belitskiy Commentary]

[Text] [Announcer] At his news conference in Reykjavik last autumn the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, made it plain that if the United States Administration went ahead with its Star Wars program the USSR would be forced to respond to this. And he added that this response would be asymmetric, that is, that it would not be a mirror image of the American Strategic Initiative and it would not involve much sacrifice on the Soviet Union's part. Ever since then western military experts have been coming up with all sorts of guesses as to what the Soviet leader could have had in mind, some even suggesting that he might have been bluffing. Well, a Soviet general has now spelled out some of the many options available to the USSR as countermeasures to SDI, and in "Vantage Point" Boris Belitskiy explains some of these options.

[Belitskiy] Major General Anureyev, in a lengthy magazine article, points out first of all that since the SDI battle stations are to circle the earth in fixed orbits they will actually be sitting ducks. In other words, they will be vulnerable to space-borne or ground-based weapons.

As one type of such weapons he mentions space mines, that is spacecraft carrying powerful explosive charges which can be detonated close to an orbital battle station by command from the ground. Or there is the possibility of creating a cloud of small objects in the path of the battle station. Spaceflight velocities are so great that a head-on collision with an object having a mass of a mere 30 grams would disable a battle station. Or there is the possibility of launching decoys, that is, fake missiles to precede a Soviet retaliatory strike. Such decoys should exhaust a battle station's firing capacity before the real missiles went up.

The simplest of the active measures to overwhelm SDI would be a simple increase in the number of Soviet strategic missiles to a level assuring penetration of the American spaceshield, should it be used as a cover for a first strike against the USSR.

Turning to passive countermeasures, Gen Anureyev points out that missiles can be protected by various light-reflecting coatings, which would make a laser beam bounce off them or else the coatings could be light-absorbing. Then again, the missiles could be made to spin in flight so that the laser beam couldn't remain focused on a single point long enough to cause any damage. [paragraph continues]

Not to mention the fact that missiles could also be fitted with additional cooling systems to neutralize the effect of the laser beams pointed at them.

As for the vaunted X-ray lasers the Pentagon proposes to develop, these are to be orbited just before an American first strike, orbited from nuclear submarines stationed close to the Soviet Union's borders. Such submarines, Gen Anureyev feels confident, can be detected and destroyed before the X-ray lasers pop up from them.

In his summing up the Soviet general points out that the cost of such countermeasures would amount to only a small percentage of the cost of the SDI system, but even so such an escalation of the arms race, with its extension to outer space, would be highly distasteful to the Soviet Union, which has just made a proposal that has been described all over the world as a breakthrough in efforts to achieve some measure of nuclear disarmament.

London has officially given its approval to this Soviet initiative aimed at scrapping the intermediate-range nuclear missiles deployed in Europe and it is hoped that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's coming visit to Moscow at the end of this month will contribute to the success of the negotiations on this matter. At the same time, Moscow observers of the London political scene cannot but note such discordant voices as that of the British defense secretary, George Younger. Speaking before the Royal Institute of International Affairs last week he sought in every way to cast doubt on the feasibility of the disarmament measure proposed by the Soviet Union. This prompted an IZVESTIYA commentator to ask in exasperation yesterday who is actually in command in Whitehall.

It is hoped in Moscow that this matter will be sorted out in time for Mrs Thatcher's visit to enable it to produce genuinely fruitful results.

CURRENT MBFR ROUND HOLDS CONCLUDING SESSION

LD191146 Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Vienna March 19 TASS -- A concluding full-delegation session of the regular round of the talks on mutual reductions in the armed forces and armaments in central Europe was held at Vienna's international centre, the Hofburg Palace, today.

Those present were addressed on behalf of the Warsaw Treaty member states by Ambassador Tadeusz Strulak, the leader of the Polish delegation, and on behalf of NATO by Ambassador Rober Blackwill, the leader of the U.S. delegation.

Next round of the talks is scheduled for mid-May.

FINANCE OFFICIAL ASSESSES CEMA MONETARY SYSTEM

PM191627 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 11, Mar 87 (signed to Press 5 Mar 87) p 20

[Article by G. Rybalko, deputy chief of a USSR Ministry of Finance section, under the rubric "Foreign Economic Ties": "Active Role of Currency Mechanism"]

[Text] The current improvement of economic cooperation within the CEMA framework also presupposes the invigoration of the currency and finance mechanism.

Here, in addition to the current timely elaboration of specific practical measures which are relevant today, it seems expedient to pay greater attention to questions of the overall long-term direction of the comprehensive restructuring of CEMA's currency mechanism. One of these issues is the question of improving reciprocal currency transactions between community countries. The ideas on this issue expressed in this article are, of course, definitely open for discussion.

Originally, the CEMA countries carried out their reciprOcal transactions in the form of bilateral clearing accounts, that is, in the form of cashless transactions by offsetting reciprocal payment demands. In 1964 the community countries switched from bilateral clearing accounts to the system of multilateral transactions, in which the socialist collective currency, the transfer ruble -- created for this purpose -- began to be used.

The positive features of the system of reciprical transactions in transfer ruble are indisputable. Transactions are carried out on a sufficiently timely basis, they require not reserves in convertible currency, and current credit requirements are met promptly with their help.

But the present-day mechanism of utilization of the collective currency attests that under this system the incentives for ensuring the highest possible qualitiative standard of reciprocally delivered goods and for the valid reflection of quality in contract prices are relatively weakened; multinational payments are held back and bilateral payments are balanced artificially, and not only as regards the total of the entire trade turnover, but also as regards individual community groups taking account of the degree of their scarcity.

As one of the ways to overcome these shortcomings, economists are examining the possibility of introducing currency convertibility for the transfer ruble. The topicality of this problem is constantly growing, especially in conditions of the development of direct ties between the CEMA countries' enterprises and associations. The role of the currency mechanism, based on the socialist collective monetary unit, will in our opinion become far more effective when the new economic managment conditions result in transactions in collective currency becoming more advantageous than in any convertive currencies. Thereby, the currency mechanism -- simply by its inherent specific effect -- will actively retain within the reciprocal exhange between the CEMA countries those goods that are competitive in the world market.

But it goes without saying that the introduction of convertibility currency is one of the several, but not the only way in the package of practical measures to improve CEMA's currency mechanism. [paragraph continues]

Also of great importance are the transformation of the mechanism for the issuing of the transfer ruble, the improvement and simplification of the system of currency exchange rates and nontrade transactions, and at the present time there more active use of CEMA countries' national currencies in their reciprocal cooperation, including direct ties.

Transfer Ruble: The Issuance Mechanism [subhead]

In our view it seems possible to improve the mechanism for the issuance of the collective currency, which exists which in the framework of the International Bank for Economic Cooperation. Multilateral transactions in transfer rubles embody the idea of a multilateral clearing account, where the collective currency is used as the accounting unit. In these conditions the volumes of monetary issuance are contantly "pulsating" -- they automatically increase as the imbalance of payments increases and decrease as they level out. In theory this can result in the almost total disappearance from circulation of the collective currency (down to the total of the International Bank for Economic Cooperation's own relative small capital), if the payments are balanced.

This nature of monetary issuance evidently accords with the specific requirements of the centralized multilateral offsetting of payment demands. However, in these conditions a shortage of payment reserves can in practice be experienced, for example when transfer rubles are used outside the sphere of reciprocal current transactions of member countries of the International Bank for Economic Cooperation, in particular in granting investment credit.

Back when the International Bank for Economic Cooperation was created, the possibility was discussed -- and it is still perhaps relevant today -- of creating a more rational mechanism for issuing the collective currency. The essence is that the original amount of currency, tentatively taking account of the real needs of payment transactions, and subsequent emissions would be distributed among the member countries of the International Bank for Economic Cooperation based on a definite principle, for example based on the proportion of reciprocal trade turnover. Practice confirms that in present-day conditions the issuance of the socialist collective currency must not necessarily -- as was believed when the transfer ruble was created -- have commodity backup for the whole of the amount, that is, essentially it need not necessarily be based on the mechanism of commercial exchange. It seems that the very nature of the collective currency and the corresponding contract commitment of the participating socialist countries ensure complete trust in it.

With the new form of issuing the collective currency, a rational system of centralized timely offsetting of reciprocal payment demands of the member countries will be preserved in the International Bank for Economic Cooperation, since under this system time, currency reserves, and operational costs will be saved. At the same time under the new form of issuing the collective currency it would be easier to issue it not only in check form but in the form of banknotes as well, which would facilitate the possibility of making broad use of the collective currency not only in interbank circulation but also commercial circulation, including direct links between enterprises.

The question of the official gold content of socialist currencies -- collective and national -- which in a certain way is connected with the problems of the evolution of gold's monetary role, is still a matter of debate but remains of practical significance.

Practice shows that in contemporary conditions it is effectively impossible to ensure the reality of exchange rate correlations on the basis of official gold parities.

For this reason we believe it is expedient to use as official reciprocal currency rates of the CEMA countries, the currency rate correlations already in use which reflect their real purchasing power. At the sametime it is necessary to improve the methodology of their definition and prompt adjustment and also to create the conditions for expanding the sphere of their effective and mutually advantageous use, including at the level of production enterprises and associations.

New Approaches to Currency Exchange Rates [subhead]

The utilization in CEMA countries of exchange rates for nontrade payments are also largely conditioned by the special features of internal price formation. The multilateral mechanism for fixing them, introduced in 1964 and in operation for more than 20 years without any substantial changes, needs improving and simplifying in our view.

The methodology applied by the CEMA countries for calculating reciprocal nontrade exchange rates takes into account -- and very scrupulously -- the correlation and dynamics of retail prices only. Moreover, in converting amounts of nontrade payments into transfer rubles, the deviation of the average level of retail prices from foreign trade prices is also taken into account. Incidentally, this deviation is not taken into account in rate correlations anywhere in world practice, although it may reach a much greater degree than in CEMA countries.

Attempts are made to justify the complexity of the present mechanism for nontrade transactions justified by reference to the desire to ensure as far as possible the equivalence of transactions and the interests of citizens and countries. But the inevitable conditional nature of any quantitative calculations of the indicator of currency purchasing power is not always duly taken into account. When this mechanism was created its special features were evidently affected by the need -- applicable at that time -- to maintain the equivalance of nontrade transactions, regardless of the change in the reality of the official (by gold content) exchange rates for national currencies, place on the agenda the need for a new approach to nontrade and other currency transactions in the CEMA region, their simplification and universalization, and a valid relaxation of currency restrictions. This could be done gradually taking into account the potential of and the practical significance of the relevant measures. For example, the relaxation of restrictions on the reciprocal exchange of national currencies is more topical primarily for nontrade operations, border trade exchange, and the servicing of production ties. In ordinary export-import operations, currency transactions can continue to be carried out primarily in the collective currency.

One of the most complex questions is the question of the interaction between currency exchange rates and price formation. In principle the currency exchange rate reflects the correlation of average price levels, that is, of currency purchasing power, which is formally sufficient to regard the exchange rate as realistic. This is however quite insufficient to make realistic use of it in transactions and value comparisons. Such a possibility of the valid practical utilization of the currency exchange rate is to a considerable degree determined not so much by the average level, as by the structure of national prices. Financially autonomous relations in foreign economic activity are rendered considerably more complicated, when the structure of internal prices is such that the average (rate) correlation is not representative of individual sectors and commodity groups, particularly for machinery, raw materials, foodstuffs, and finished items. In practice, in these conditions a system of individual coefficients which reflect the specific correlation of prices for the corresponding groups of commodities has to be used as a temporary measure in addition to the unified -- and, in overall average terms, realistic -- rate.

This cannot fail to complicate financial autonomous relations, economic analysis, and the equivalence of transactions, including those involved in direct ties.

In the long term the possibility of taking definite account, in internal price formation, of foreign trade price ratios is regarded as a solution. When taking practical steps in this direction during the course of improving the system of internal price formation, the whole aggregate of economic conditions and actual and future national economic tasks must be taken into account without fail. Taking account of valid, progressive, and stable price correlations in the world socialist market in internal price formation would also be in line with the set task of achieving the highest world standard of social labor productivity.

This would also be in line with the task of harmonizing the structure of national prices in the CEMA region. At the present time, the utilization of internal prices in international, including direct, economic ties is complicated by the substantial differences in their ratios. In these conditions the financially autonomous indicators of individual enterprises -- profits and profitability -- may substantially deviate from the national economic appraisal and thereby make the potential for applying unified criteria in external and internal operations more difficult.

Finally, in contemporary conditions of establishing reciprocal direct production and other international ties in the CEMA region, it must seemingly be regarded as a topical practical task for broad circles of managers to increase their professionalism and master a necessary minimum of knowledge and specific skills in the day-to-day use of currency exchange rates and transactional and credit instruments in future independent foreign economic activity.

CEMA DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET 18 MAR

LD181540 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] There was a meeting in Moscow today of deputy foreign ministers and other representatives of the foreign ministries of Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, the Republic of Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, the USSR, and Czechoslovakia. Those taking part exchanged opinions on questions concerning economic and scientific and technical cooperation between CEMA member countries and deepening socialist economic integration.

SOCIALIST DISCUSS CULTURAL ISSUES AT CONFERENCE

LD181739 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 18 TASS -- The participants in a conference of the heads of theater departments of socialist countries' culture ministries discuss the tasks of deepening and broadening ties among masters of stagecraft and new organisational forms of cooperation.

The conference opened in Moscow today in the presence of the delegates from Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the German Democratic Republic, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, the USSR, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

The conference will last till March 23.

GERASIMOV BRIEFS MEDIA ON U.S. FRG, PRC TIES

LD191721 Moscow TASS in English 1712 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS -- Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, held a briefing on current international issues at the ministry's Press Center for Soviet and foreign correspondents here today.

He called Soviet-U.S. exchanges of opinions on regional problems, which took place in Moscow on March 16 and 17, to their attention, explaining:

"They took place at the same time with preparations for the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the USSR and this lent special significance to the meeting."

The discussions, he said, had covered issues of priority importance at the current, crucial phase of the Soviet-U.S. relationship.

"It is yet too early to draw the final balance sheet on the substance of the exchanges of opinions on regional issues," Gerasimov continued.

"Such comparing of notes in itself is positive but the latest round, regretfully, did not lead to any encouraging progress.

"The tone of the debates was calm and not confrontational but the American side did not offer anything to back up its public remarks in favor of regional settlements, including those in cooperation with the USSR," the spokesman said.

The Soviet Union, he went on to stress, "remains a committed advocate for aboveboard and constructive cooperation with all countries, including, certainly, the United States, to reduce regional tensions".

The head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's information directorate then commented on a policy statement by West German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the Bundestag on March 18. Gerasimov said the chancellor's opinion that there were untapped possibilities in relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the USSR was shared in this country.

"It is to be hoped that the Government of the Federal Republic will be facilitating the development of Soviet-West German relations in practice," he continued.

"Some of the chancellor's comments attesting to the FRG Government being effectively opposed to the elimination of nuclear weapons are therefore to be regretted. The statement also included familiar allegations about a so-called "military threat" posed by the Warsaw Treaty," Gerasimov added.

One of the newsmen's questions, was about prospects for a visit to the USSR by the premier of the Council of State of the People's Republic of China.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry's spokesman said an invitation on behalf of the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers to visit this country had been conveyed to the premier last September and remained standing.

Moscow Mandarin Report

OW200931 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Gerasimov, head of the Information Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, chaired a news briefing that book place at the Ministry's press center on 19 March.

Answering a question on whether Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang will visit the USSR, Gerasimov said: When First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Talyzin held talks in Beijing last year, he conveyed a letter from Soviet head of government Ryzhkov to Premier Zhao Ziyang inviting him to visit the USSR. The invitation still stands.

PRIMAKOV ADDRESSES CONFERENCE ON CAPITALISM

LD171823 Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- Academician Yevgeniy Primakov devoted his report to problems of the confrontation and peaceful cooperation of socialism and capitalism. He spoke at the international theoretical conference "present-day specificities of the general crisis of capitalism" that opened here today. The conference is attended by specialists from almost twenty countries.

The revolutionary process in the Soviet Union, being a continuation of the Great October Socialist Revolution, is the main source of influence on the entire course of world development, Academician Primakov said.

At the same time, and this must be stated bluntly, our miscalculations and mistakes, the failed attempts to utilise the advantages that socialism undoubtedly creates exert an negative influence on the course of the world revolutionary process and, ultimately, negatively affect social development on the world scale. All these trends were dealt with in the documents of the 27th CPSU Congress and the January 1987 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, Academician Primakov siad.

Speaking of the development of capitalism at the present stage Academician Primakov drew attention to the obviously increasing militarisation of capitalist society. Yet, he went on, it cannot be contended that capitalism organically cannot exist without militarism. For instance, while retaining the tendency towards militarisation post-war Japan nevertheless has proved by its example that militarism is not an obligatory satellite even of an accelerated growth of productive forces under capitalism.

Yevgeniy Primakov believes that militarisation is not a univocal process in capitalist society. It can develop in zigzags, sometimes retreat. But when mankind encounters a real prospect of self destruction in the event of thermonuclear war this leads to social differentation, to the appearance of realistically thinking personalities even among the ruling groups.

Rassidin Sums Up Results

LD191821 Moscow TASS in English 1727 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS -- The struggle for peace in conditions of the crisis of capitalism, problems of coexistence of two systems, the struggle of developing countries for national independence -- such was the range of themes discussed by a theoretical conference of social scientists which ended in Moscow today. Historians, philosophers, economists, political scientists from 20 countries attended the conference.

The conference "Present-Day Specificities of the General Crisis of Capitalism" was addressed by Vice President of the USSR Academy of Sciences Pyetr Fedoseyev, academicians Boris Ponomarev, Yevgeniy Primakov, prominent Soviet Scientists Georgiy Kim, Valentin Zagladin. Reports were also presented by guests from France, Greece, Japan, the GDR.

Summing up the results of the conference, Professor Anatoliy Rassadin said that the attention of participants in the conference focused on questions connected with the contradictions between imperialism's policy from the positions of strength and realities of the world today, contradictions which deepened in the recent years, ever more frequent contradictions between the militaristic aggressive tendencies and the realistic approach to resolving disputed international issues.

Many speeches were devoted to such an acute problem as the struggle for peaceful coexistence. Speakers noted that in conditions of the existing military-strategic parity between the USSR and the USA peaceful coexistence can be ensured by political means. Equal security is the requirement of times. Goodneighbourly relations and cooperation between socialist and capitalist countries in the economic, scientific, technological, cultural and other areas now have a greater stabilising importance for peace than ever.

Conference Ends

LD191643 Moscow TASS in English 1450 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS -- An international theoretical conference of social scientists to consider the general crisis of capitalism closed in Moscow today.

The conference was attended by historians, philosophers, economists and political scientists from twenty countries.

They discussed problems of the campaign for peace in the conditions of the crisis of capitalism, co-existence of two systems and the developing countries' struggle for national independence.

ARMY DAILY CONTRASTS USSR, U.S. ASIAN POLICIES

PM181201 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Golts "Military-Political Review": "Asia: Breaking Down the Reefs of Confrontation"]

[Text] I will begin with a quotation. "Asia," the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI wrote recently, "is a continent of controversy largely caused by complicated territorial conflicts and violence... No pan-Asian system can settle this controversy." These words, in my opinion, clearly reflect the idea constantly present in capitalist countries' press publications, in speeches by political figures on the problems of the Asian and Pacific region, and in their arguments that, under these conditions, the idea of a guarantee of reliable security for all on this continent is, if not utopian, certainly "insidious Soviet propaganda." The public is gradually being led to the conclusion that every state must struggle in isolation for its own security.

Asia does, of course, have a considerable number of serious problems. Hardly a day goes by without reports coming in on continuing fierce conflicts.

But those who refer to these conflicts as the main obstacle in the way of creating a pan-Asian security system are for some reason reluctant to point out that the confrontational situation in Asia did not arise and does not continue to exist of its own accord. It is being deliberately whipped up.

Facts? As many as you could wish for. For more than 3 weeks now the U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit-87" military maneuvers -- the largest militarist exercise of those annually organized by the Pentagon on the Asian continent -- have been in progress over extensive areas of the Far East. Units from the 3d Marine Infantry Division, the 25th Light Infantry Division, and other formations incorporated in the interventionist rapid deployment forces are being transferred from Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland to the south of the Korean peninsula. Before May more than 200,000 U.S. and South Korean military servicemen will rehearse air and sea assault landings, breaking through "enemy" defense, and "preemptive nuclear strikes." Judging by foreign press publications, these scenarios -- which have already become routine for "Team Spirit" -- are to be supplemented by another this year -- rehearsing the scooping up [zakhvat s khodu] of a littoral city. Operations through which the American interventionists attempted to gain victory in the war against the People's Korea 36 years ago will thereby be rehearsed.

What is very significant is the fact that this highly provocative militarist orgy is being screened by allusions to some kind of "threat from the north." A chronic regional conflict -- the tragedy of the Korean people, who are divided as a result of the evil intent of U.S. imperialism -- is therefore being used today to justify the American military presence in the south of the peninsula. It would be wrong to assume that the U.S. staffs are unaware of the possible outcome of this course. Back in 1982 the "Ivy League" exercise was held in Washington to rehearse the actions to be taken by the top U.S. military and political leadership in the event of a nuclear war. As it later became known, the scenario envisaged a nuclear conflict breaking out on the Korean peninsula!

Washington's desire to turn the Asian and Pacific region into another zone of military and political confrontation and make it a convenient bridgehead from which to unleash a nuclear war has become increasingly apparent recently. We are not only persuaded of this by the fact that the Pacific grouping of the U.S. Armed Forces is being equipped with various types of nuclear arms and the latest vehicles for these arms, such as F-16 fighter-bombers and sea- and air-based cruise missiles. The process of preparing the infrastructure for waging a nuclear war is now in full swing. Command centers and long-range communications stations are being deployed in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines.

The Pentagon has also begun "assimilating" the north Pacific. The MAKKLATCHI [name as published] information service recently reported that there are plans to set up a large tracking station on Amchitka Island, which is part of the Aleutian Archipelago, to track Soviet ships in the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. A large base is also being developed 300 km to the east, on Adak Island. According to the Japanese ASAHI, P-3C Orion antisubmarine aircraft, submarine repair docks, tracking stations and long-range communication centers, and a Marine infantry detachment are to be located there. And, most important of all, a store for nuclear depth charges. Another base is being developed 400 km to the west of Amchitka -- on Shemya Island.

It must be noted that the demarcation line between the zones of operation of the 7th and 3d U.S. operational fleets has virtually been removed by the appearance of this network of bases. The U.S. Navy in the Pacific has already been set an essentially adventurist task -- to lock the Soviet Pacific Fleet in inland waters in an "emergency."

These are just some of the facts. But this is not all that is involved here. When an entire policy is geared to the aims of a confrontational strategy, this also leaves its mark on relations with the allies -- with those whose security Washington has supposedly pledged to protect. A recent report to Congress by Armitage, U.S. assistant defense secretary, is highly revealing in this respect. The position from which Armitage gives the allies his appraisal of the situation can be called nothing other than selfish. His report basically boils down to the argument that Thailand is only able to offer depots for heavy weapons, whereas South Korea is in a position to provide troops to take part in military adventures, and Japan can give the Pentagon ultramodern technology in addition to bases and powerful armed forces.

Why is Washington going to all this trouble? To consolidate its old positions and acquire new ones in its confrontational policy spearheaded against the USSR, other socialist countries, and all progressive forces in the region. U.S. ruling circles would like to use this policy to drive the Asian and Pacific peoples into a confrontational deadlock. In the past they succeeded.

But these are different times. It is proving increasingly difficult to justify a policy of force and gambling on military superiority to peoples who are fully aware of the danger of nuclear catastrophe looming over mankind. Today strength and superiority do not consist of a militarist bedlam, but of an understanding of the utter senselessness of nuclear arms. This is the essence of new political thinking. The Soviet Union is guided by this thinking in its Asian and Pacific policy. This was convincingly demonstrated during the trip by E.A. Shevardnadze, USSR foreign minister, to Australia, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

As was stressed more than once in the course of this visit, the USSR believes that security primarily lies in reducing military activity and military rivalry at all levels. It is vitally necessary to place a barrier in the way of a buildup and proliferation of nuclear arms in Asia. The new Soviet initiative which has the aim of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe and decisively reducing their number in Asia has great significance in this respect. The USSR also proposes limiting naval activity in the Pacific, and this primarily concerns ships carrying nuclear weapons. A radical reduction in conventional armed forces and arms to a point of reasonable sufficiency is also essential.

It goes without saying that security also lies in reducing the military presence of any power outside its national borders. Backing up its principled stand with concrete action, the Soviet Union has already withdrawn six regiments from Afghanistan. The Mongolian Government has agreed that a motorized rifle division and several units of the Soviet troop contingent in this country's territory will be withdrawn from Mongolia in April-June.

Finally, security is the result of trust between countries arising as a consequence of measures being implemented which enable them to be totally confident that force will not be used against them. Our country proposes working out guarantees of safety for sealanes in the Pacific. The USSR has said that it is willing to hold talks with the United States and other interested Asian countries on confidence-building measures in the region.

The Soviet Union understands that many states in the region do not find it easy to suddenly abandon stereotypes that have formed over the years and adopt a new way of thinking. Nevertheless, life shows that in spite of all obstacles, new political thinking is forging a path for itself on the Asian Continent. Many states in the region -- some in conjunction with the USSR and others in parallel -- are struggling for security on the continent. The contribution made by socialist countries is appreciable. In a highly complex military-political situation, when threats addressed to the DPRK are backed up by artillery fire on its borders, this country's leadership has proposed that high-level military-political talks be held this month between North and South and that other contacts be resumed. The socialist countries of Indochina wage a consistent struggle for a lessening of tension in Southeast Asia.

The idea of creating nuclear-free zones which would limit the sphere of nuclear preparations in practice has become widespread in the Asian and Pacific region.

The ideas of universal security in Asia are thereby charting a course through the reefs of threats and confrontation to peoples' minds and hearts.

TURKATENKO ON REAGAN NEWS CONFERENCE

LD201042 Moscow TASS in English 0959 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 20 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reporting:

Speaking at a news conference Thursday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan admitted that a "narrow" -- that is, the original and the only correct -- interpretation of the Soviet-American treaty on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems (ABM Treaty) could interfere and set the U.S. back on implementing the program for the development of an anti-missile defense with space based elements.

The President alleged that the U.S. Administraiton had not taken a final decision concerning the interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

However, in what looks to be a clear bid to pave the way not only for a broader interpretation of the agreement in question, but also for torpedoing it, the President accused the Soviet Union of "going beyond" the treaty limits. The same pretext is known to have been used by the United States for torpedoing SALT-2

The news conference was dominated by questions and answers concerning "Irangate". Not surprisingly, for on the eve of the meeting with the press the White House made it plain that the President would at long last dot all "i's" and provide exhausting answers to the lingering questions.

However, nothing of the kind happend. The President reiterated his earlier allegations that by supplying arms to Iran the United States hoped, among other things, to bring about an end to the Iranian-Iraqi war.

He also said that many things concerning the affair were unknown to him and that he did not remember when he had sanctioned the delivery of the first shipment of arms to Iran.

The President was barraged with questions concerning the "Irangate" affair. Again and again his assertions to the effect that he was telling nothing but truth were called into question by the media people attending the news conference.

One newsman reminded the U.S. President that originally he had stated that the U.S. had nothing to do with Israeli arms shipment to Iran and also that reports appearing in a Lebanese weekly concerning American arms supplies to Iran were "without foundation." It now turns out that there were a series of statements you made that were misleading, the newsman said.

President Reagan was especially emphatic in denying that he had known about the diversion of a part of the funds from the arms sales to Iran in military aid to the "contras" at the time of the congressional ban on such assistance.

The President said that 12 million dollars' worth of arms had been sold to Iran and that the entire sum had been received by the United States.

Ironically, on the very day of the President's news conference, the Senate Intelligence Committee announced that it would start legal proceedings against Retired General Richard Secord, one of the heroes of "Irangate", for "contempt of Congress" and reported that the trace of at least 20 million dollars received as a result of the "Iran-contras" operation had not been found to date.

How could assistance be flowing to the "contras" at a time when Congress ruled that to be illegal, without you (?President Reagan) having known about it? -- another journalist asked. For precisely at that time -- over a period of two years millions and millions of dollars, as the Tower board has documented, were spent on an extensive military support for the "contras" -- air strips, phoney corporations, tax exempt foundations -- all directed by U.S. officials, including National Security Council officials.

Replying to that question, President Reagan tried to blame everything on "private groups and private individuals" and went so far as to compare the benefactors of Somozist thugs to -- the Americans from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade who had fought against fascism in Spain.

One of the journalists reminded the President that, as his own polls showed, a majority of American people, including many who had voted for him, believed that he was not telling the full truth on the "Irangate" affair.

The President tried to put the blame on -- the media people, saying that "in view of what they've been reading and hearing for all these several months -- I can understand why they (Americans) might think that."

During the news conference President Reagan praised the administration's economic policy. He spoke of the government's determination to fight the federal budget deficit by further curtailing federal spending, but not military spending, although exorbitant military expenditures are one of the main causes of the deficit, as leading American economists admit.

Commenting on President Reagan's news conference, CBS television network said that its objective was not to provide exhausting answers to the serious questions concerning "Irangate", but to give the U.S. Administration a breathing space in the run-up to the hearings due to start May 5 in the committees of the Senate and House of Representatives investigating "Irangate".

DOBRYNIN RECEIVES ARMACOST, RODMAN

LD181814 Moscow TASS in English 1711 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 18 TASS -- Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin received on March 17 Michael Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs, and Peter Rodman, deputy assistant to the President for national security affairs, on a visit to Moscow.

During the conversation they discussed prospects of Soviet-American relations, including the Geneva talks in the light of Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of February 28, 1987.

DENG XIAOPING CITED ON UPCOMING POLITICAL REFORM

LD192012 Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping has said that the next congress of the country's Communist Party will be submitted a draft reform of the political structure. The 13th congress of the party is to be held in October. The reform is aimed at ensuring stability which would help implement the programs of the nation's socialist modernization. Deng Xiaoping said the success of economic reforms is hinged on reforms in politics.

YU QIULI'S CALL TO DEFEND MARXISM NOTED

PM191641 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Appeal by Yu Qiuli"]

[Text] Beijing, 17 Mar — We must firmly defend Marxism and at the same time pay the utmost attention to mastering Marxist theory — the ideological weapon in the struggle against "bourgeois liberalization." This appeal, RENMIN RIBAO writes, was addressed to leading army cadre workers by Yu Qiuli, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo and chief of the Chinese Army's General Political Department, when speaking at the Academy of National Defense. He pointed out that command and political personnel must firmly defend the basic principles of socialist building in China's specific conditions and take a leading position in the struggle against "bourgeois liberalization."

According to Yu Qiuli, the protracted nature of this struggle is due to a number of factors. There is a class struggle under way in China although it does not express a major contradiction. It must be clearly understood that the building of socialism in the PRC is still in the initial stage and the establishment, strengthening, and development of the socialist system will be a lengthy process.

DPRK VIEWS U.S. DECISION AS 'POSITIVE' STEP

LD191030 Moscow TASS in English 1008 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 TASS -- A statement by a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), circulated here today, assessed the recent decision of the U.S. Department of State to permit American diplomats a limited dialogue with diplomatic officers of People's Korea as a positive measure which had drawn the attention of the DPRK.

"We are prepared to establish constacts and conduct talks with U.S. officials irrespectively of the place, form or level," the spokesman said.

The statement expressed the hope that both sides, displaying goodwill, will establish contacts and conduct dialogue in an atmosphere of sincerity and, in doing so, would find a key to eliminating mutual distrust and to resolving the issue of easing tensions on the Korean peninsula and of a peaceful reunification of Korea.

Answering questions asked by newsmen at a press conference held here today An Hi Jong [name as received], head of the Information Department of the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that during such contacts the sides should discuss matters of mutual interest and that their framework and content should not be artificially limited. He said it was important to hold a broad discussion of all matters related to the settlement of the Korean-American relations.

COMMENTATOR ASSESSES DPRK-S. KOREA DIALOGUE

SK200430 Moscow International Service in Korean 1130 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Commentary by station commentator (Viktorov)]

[Text] A letter containing a reply to the DPRK proposal for alleviating tension on the Korean peninsula and resuming North-South dialogue was sent to DPRK leaders by the South Korean authorities.

Seoul's reply to the Pyongyang initiative itself is not bad, but the South Korean (?authorities), in refusing the DPRK proposals, have described them as propaganda maneuvers.

As disclosed in the reply, the Seoul regime still has no desire to seek alleviation of tension on the Korean peninsula and resume affirmative talks with the northern half. Then why does it insist on discussion the question of the Kumgangsan hydraulic power plant by holding talks between the heads of governments?

According to South Korean propaganda, this power plant poses the danger of flooding Seoul. Pyongyang has stressed many times that constructing the power plant will pose no problem at all for South Korea. Nevertheless, the South Korean side insists on discussing this matter as a problem.

Let us recall the proposal sent to Seoul on holding high-level political and military talks in March. The DPRK has also expressed its willingness to resume economic, parliamentary, and Red Cross talks.

It seems that a good opportunity has been provided to normalize the situation. However, Seoul thinks differently and claims that the DPRK is not sincere. Seoul's sudden conditions, its intransigence in discussing existing problems, and its attempt to continue present abnormal relations all once again show that the South Korean regime is trying to ruin Pyongyang's realistic proposals.

Nevertheless, the DPRK Government is purposely and prospectively seeking a line that agrees with the socialist countries' peace-loving efforts to strengthen security in the Far East, Asia, and the Pacific region.

The DPRK is making efforts for withdrawing U.S. weapons and troops from South Korea and for making the Korean peninsula a peace zone. The Republic has proposed replacing the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, adopting a North-South declaration of nonaggression, and discussing other urgent problems. This being the case, which side should be condemned as insincere in discussing the question of normalizing the Korean situation?

Pyongyang's stand is based on good faith. This is well known by objective observers.

DPRK DECRIES RESPONSE TO PEACE PROPOSAL

LD181921 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 18 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by correspondent M. Kretov, identified by screen caption]

[Text] [Kretov] We are conducting our reportage from the settlement of Panmunjom, which is situated close to the 38th Parallel dividing Korea into two parts. Here, in the conference hall of the neutral countries' military commissions observing the armistice, the DPRK representatives delivered a letter to the South Korean side. It proposes military-political talks at a top level. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, striving to peacefully end the separation of Korea, has taken yet another step towards a constructive dialogue between the North and South. Socialist Korea's new initiative illustrates its deep interest in detente and in maintaining and consolidating peace on the Korean peninsula as well as in the Far East.

How are the rulers in Seoul reacting to the DPRK's sincere desire for good will? This is what (Kim Yen-su), an officer in the Korean People's Army, said:

[Begin (Kim Yen-su) recording in vernacular with superimposed Russian translation] The South Korean authorities and the U.S. aggressors, in response to our peace proposals and call for dialogue, have instead planned to begin large-scale joint military exercises, "Team Spirit-87," which are to last for 2 and 1/2 months. As before, the pretext for these maneuvers is the same old invented "threat from the north." As the DPRK press stresses, the provocative U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit-87" maneuvers dangerously exacerbate tension on the Korean peninsula. And the feverish military preparations being carried out by the United States and its South Korean protege not only run counter to the Korean people's aspirations but also constitute a threat to peace and security in the Far East. [end recording] [video opens with shots of village against mountainous backdrop taken from a moving vehicle, cutting to exterior and interior shots of the conference building with a guard standing on duty in an otherwise empty room; further pan shots of more guards standing at attention around the building complex; interview with army officer]

TRADE PROTOCOL WITH DPRK SIGNED FOR 1987

PM181311 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Protocol Signed"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 16 Mar -- A protocol on trade turnover between the USSR and the DPRK for 1987, signed here today, provides for a further increase in reciprocal goods deliveries. According to this document the Soviet Union will supply machinery, equipment, fuel, and raw materials to the DPRK while the DPRK will deliver certain types of machinery and technical equipment to the USSR.

JAPANESE TV RECEIVES, AIRS SOVIET PROGRAMMING

OW190637 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Tokyo correspondent Potapov report]

[Text] Beginning Tuesday on 17 March many Japanese TV viewers will have the opportunity to view Soviet television news programs. Television Asahi has started receiving Soviet television programs via a Soviet communications satellite, and these will be used as topics in news programs. A ceremony marking the start of the reception of Soviet television programs was held at Television Asahi on 17 March. Following is a report filed by Potapov, Radio Moscow correspodent in Tokyo:

The studio of Television Asahi's new building was filled with news reporters. When a Television Asahi representative flipped a switch at 1330 Japanese time [0430 GMT], the Russian characters of Moscow News appeared on 50 monitor television sets, and theme music and the Russian language was heard in the studio for the next 10 minutes. The announcer reported on a local party organization meeting in Kazakh, progress in solving agricultural problems, and progress in commercial organization reforms. The same news program was viewed simultaneously by millions of television viewers in the Far Eastern part of the USSR. This is how Television Asahi officially started receiving the Soviet Orbita-1 system news program via communications satellite. The Japanese people first directly watched Soviet television programs several years ago at the 1985 Tsukuba Science Exposition. At that time an antenna capable of receiving transmissions from the Soviet Gorizont No 6 communications satellite was erected at the Soviet exposition hall. Recently the same antenna was set up at the Television Asahi station. Television Asahi has had much experience in cooperating with television networks of both the USSR and other socialist countries for many years.

Under an agreement with the USSR, Television Asahi will use news materials supplied by the news program called Vremya in its own news programs. Since Television Asahi has its own network all across the country, many Japanese families will become familiar with the contents of Soviet television news programs. In an interview with Radio Moscow, Mr Junichi Narai, chief of the Television Asahi project, stated the following: If the Japanese people can see with their own eyes live television programs also watched by the Soviet people, the two peoples will acquire deeper mutual trust and understanding. With the new Soviet reforms and social and economic changes noted in the USSR, the Japanese people's interest in their neighbor has remarkably increased. Soviet television programs have become more interesting to them because of their openness, as well as the extensive reporting on various events and problems in the USSR. In this connection, we are convinced that the project will achieve success.

These remarks were made by Project Chief Mr Junichi Narai. This has been a report filed by Potapov, Radio Moscow correspondent in Tokyo.

DRA'S NAJIBULLAH INTERVIEWED ON CEASE-FIRE

LD192308 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1940 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Interview with Najib, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, by writer Genrikh Borovik, chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, "during the visit to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] of a Soviet writers delegation;" Najibullah speaking in vernacular with superimposed Russian translation -- recorded]

[Text] [Borovik] I should like to ask you this, Comrade Najib; 2 months have now passed since the unilateral cease-fire was instituted. How do you evaluate the results of the policy of national reconciliation?

[Najib] I may state with complete satisfaction that the course of national reconciliation has been enthusiastically welcomed by the Afghan people and by every patriot of our country. In fact none of the appeals ever put forward by the PDPA have met with such widespread support from the masses of the people.

I may now state with assurance that the policy of national reconciliation has already brought quite definite and specific results. On 15 January of this year, we unilaterally declared a cease-fire. Since them, in accordance with the Declaration by the DRA Revolutionary Council, firing has been resumed only at the demand of the Higher Extraordinary Commission on National Reconciliation to rebuff those sending arms caravans into our country from abroad to establish secret bases for armed counterrevolution, those extremist elements attempting to systematically wreck the cease-fire.

An important and positive factor in national reconciliation is the return to their homeland of Afghan refugees. Regardless of progress being made at the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva on the return of refugees, Afghan people who have at various times left their homeland are themselves deciding to return and are breaking out of refugee camps, which are in essence prison dungeons in Iran and Pakistan. To date 35,000 refugees have returned to their homeland, over the past 70 days, compared with a total of 37,000 persons who returned to Afghanistan in the preceding 8 years.

We are indeed proposing the representatives of international organizations involved with the refugees visit our country and personally acquaint themselves with the views of refugees who returned to Afghanistan and with how they are being received; to assure themselves that the refugees' children are attending school and are enjoying various forms of social security; to see for themselves that yesterday's refugees are today taking part in the country's public life and that their representatives are chosen as members of the extraordinary commissions on national reconciliation and even as deputies for local authority and state management bodies.

Another extremely important circumstance to be considered is the fact that a considerable number of armed antigovernment formations have to date come over to the side of the people's power. In all they number about 10,000 persons. In addition a large number of such groups, numbering in all about 90,000 persons, are in the stage of negotiations on reconciliation with the DRA Government. This comprises half of the overall number of all armed antigovernment formations, and this figure in itself very eloquently states a great deal. In other words, what previously required years has not literally been achieved in a matter of days and months.

I could also supply other statistical data but there are matters not covered by mathematical calculations and that cannot be shown in figures. I refer, first of all, to the will and aspiration of the Afghan people for peace. The process of national reconciliation has already become irreversible, and we will follow this course in the future, in a resolute and unswerving manner. I can tell you frankly that if the external aggression and foreign interference in our country's affairs stopped, if imperialism and regional reaction led by Reagan's administration ceased their financial and military aid to the armed antigovernmental forces, ended their military training and ceased bringing them into our country to carry out sabotage, then the policies of national reconciliation would succeed after a short time in establishing peace and security in our country.

[Borovik] Tell me please, Comrade Najib, the enemies of Afghanistan are trying to prove that precisely here, in the DRA, the Koran is in danger. What do you say to this?

[Najib] Our adversaries consider themselves Muslims, yet the Lord Almighty says in the Holy Koran: If you see two Muslims fighting each other, reconcile them. I give you this quotation so that you can see once again that we know the Koran, respect it deeply, and defend it as befits Muslims. Thus, all statements claiming that Islam is in danger in Afghanistan are totally groundless.

[Borovik] Thank you very much. And the last question, Comrade Najib. How could Soviet peace supporters and those of the entire world promote success of the policies of national reconciliation and end the bloodshed in Afghanistan?

[Najib] We are calling on all peace-loving forces, and primarily, on the peace-loving forces in the United States to pressure the Reagan administrtion to stop aiding armed antigovernmental groupings so that peace can be achieved more quickly and bloodshed in Afghanistan stopped. Increasing this foreign aid now, when we have chosen the course toward national reconciliation, appears as an inhumane and irresponsible policy. We call upon all peace-loving forces of the world, all progressive mankind, and all the governments that consider peace an essential condition for human existence, to employ all their influence and authority in contributing to the speediest restoration of peace in Afghanistan. We place our hopes in the support and goodwill of all progressive and peace-loving forces of the world.

[Borovik] Thank you very much, Comrade Najib, for granting the interview. I would like to convey the gratitude of all Soviet viewers to you, and on behalf of all Soviet people, to wish you success in the lofty policy of national reconciliation and efforts for peace in Afghanistan. There is not a single person in the USSR who does not want an end to this bloodshed. We are here with you, and our hearts are with yours. Thank you very much indeed.

[Najib] Thank you very much.

WAKIL DISCUSSES GENEVA TALKS WITH PAKISTAN

PM191633 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent V. Okulov under the rubric "Our Interviews": "'The Talks Could Have Been Completed By Now,' Afghan Foreign Minister A. Wakil Believes"]

[Text] Kabul, March -- The latest stage of the seventh round of Afghan-Pakistani talks, taking place through the UN secretary general's personal representative, has ended in Geneva. What are its results? A. Wakil, who represented the Afghan side at the talks, answered the question for our correspondent V. Okulov.

The talks, the minister said, took place against the background of the Afghan Government's consistent policy toward national reconciliation to establish peace and tranquillity in the country. This not only meets the fundamental interests of the Afghan people, but also contributes to improving the regional situation.

Remember that definite progress was achieved during the previous meetings in Geneva. By the second stage of the seventh round of talks last August work was nearly completed on three documents. These are an Afghan-Pakistani bilateral agreement on noninterference and nonintervention, a declaration on international guarantees of the nonresumption of interference, and an Afghan-Pakistani bilateral agreement on the voluntary return of refugees to their homeland -- Afghanistan. But there remain a whole range of issues, mainly connected with the first and third documents, which still need to be discussed.

During the present stage the Afghan side sought to reach accords on unresolved problems. These include questions concerned with involving Iran in the process of a regional political settlement; the mechanism for monitoring fulfillment of the agreements; and also the timeframe for the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan to return to the USSR after armed outside interference in our country's internal affairs, organized by imperialism, has ceased.

In order to speed up an agreement's conclusion, Wakil continued, our delegation offered a compromise proposal. But the impression was that our partners in the talks were under considerable pressure from the United States in its efforts to worsen the Afghan situation.

We believe that the U.S. anti-Afghan policy remains the chief obstacle to success in Geneva. The U.S. Administration has just decided to deliver 300 Stinger air defense missiles to antigovernment groups, in addition to the 150 missiles that have already been provided. U.S. appropriations for subversive actions are constantly increasing.

As for Pakistan, facts prove it is not cutting support for Afghan counterrevolutionary extremists and that it is keeping refugees from returning home. Need one point out that all this did not contribute to a favorable atmosphere in Geneva?

I want to stress, the minister said, that the positions came somewhat closer together entirely because of the Afghan side's flexible approach to the problem. Certainly, these talks would be completed now if Pakistan had displayed the same willingness to reach a compromise as we did. When Pakistan displays realism, adopts a good-neighborly stance, and stops interfering in DRA affairs, it will be possible to end the talks quickly.

PEACE COMMITTEE HEAD MAKES APPEAL ON AFGHANISTAN

LD190510 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report from Afghanistan by Genrikh Borovik, chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee]

[Text] Since I am now in Afghanistan, I would like to say a few words on behalf of the Soviet Peace Committee. I consider this essential. At the start of the year the DRA Government announced the policy of national reconciliation. It appealed to those who were sent there to kill, who received ground-based weapons for this, who received earthly money for this, to stop the bloodshed and to seek a political solution to the Afghan problems.

Already 35,000 Afghans have returned to the homeland and started peaceful work. More than 10,000 members of armed groups have laid down their arms and also returned to Afghanistan to work in peace. Talks on reconciliation are being conducted by representatives of the DRA Government with ringleaders of many other armed groups. But why does blood continue to flow in Afghanistan? Why are more and more children being brought to this hospital, where I am now, a hospital for children maimed by the war every day?

This war benefits no one, not a single person in Afghanistan, nor does this bloodshed benefit a single person around Afghanistan. It is beneficial only to a small group of people who are tens of thousands of kilometers from here, across oceans. It is precisely this group that is responsible for the fact that Washington has officially announced that not only will it not discontinue aid to the bandits, but it will increase aid, both in terms of weapons and money. They have really increased aid. Specifically, there are now twice as many Stinger missiles being supplied to the bandits as before.

Blood continues to flow in Afghanistan, and maimed children continue coming to his hospital. This is why, from here, from Afghanistan, from the territory of the hospital for children maimed by the war, I want, on behalf of the Soviet Peace Committee, to call upon our American friends, writers, journalists and scientists, actors, directors, and religious figures, all advocates of peace: Put pressure on your government, demand that it discontinue aid to the groups, demand that it stop sending armed groups onto the territory of Afghanistan, demand that it stop the war and bloodshed. I am sure that all Afghans who are terribly weary of the war will join in this appeal, I am sure that all Soviet people who await the return of their sons and brothers will join in this appeal. Today blood flows in Afghanistan first and foremost due to the fault of Washington, and today this must be clear to everyone. [video opens with Borovik standing on street addressing camera; cuts to scenes of reconciliation of forces and surrender of weapons, then scenes of hospital wards showing maimed children; cuts back to Borovik]

PRAVDA ON U.S. OPPOSITION TO DRA RECONCILIATION

PM191127 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Aleksandr Gavrilov "Commentator's Column": "Undermining Conciliation"]

[Text] A few days ago 10 young children aged from 2 to 12 died on a farm near Qandahar City in Afghanistan. Their lives were cut short by a mine deliberately and cold-bloodedly laid by bandits.

This crime, like similar crimes now being perpetrated by the dushmans are essentially mines laid under the process of national conciliation now gathering strength in Afghanistan. It is highly symbolic that the instrument of murder which cut short 10 still very young lives was of U.S. manufacture.

Deliveries of U.S. weapons to the bandits are accompanied by subversive actions of a political nature. No sooner had some progress emerged at the latest round of Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva than officials from Washington called it a "diplomatic trap." The DRA authorities proposed creating a government of national conciliation while the right-wing U.S. Republican Senator Gordon Humphrey called this idea "dangerous." Leaders of the Pentagon, State Department, and other leading organs of the U.S. Administration regularly make attempts to discredit Kabul's actions.

But please tell me for whom the process of political settlement in and around Afghanistan is "dangerous?" Only for those who dream of the conflict continuing and of the hotbed of tension being preserved on the USSR's southern borders.

It is these calculations which were recently blurted out by Fred Ikle, Pentagon deputy secretary for policy, in an interview with THE WASHINGTON TIMES. He stated that "hostile armed formations" (the dushmans -- A. G.) could attack the USSR's "vulnerable southern border." Perhaps without wishing to Ikle has given away Washington's secret designs?

As the Washington Center for National Security Studies attests, U.S. tactics now consist of "smuggling weapons into Afghanistan and loudly demanding talks while at the same time blocking the achievement of a solution based on negotiations." The CIA is preparing 300 Stinger missiles for shipment to Afghanistan. And one Pentagon representative who prefers to remain anonymous even presented journalists with a savage thesis -- "fighting to the last Afghan."

Commentary is superfluous, as they say.

But Washington's calculations, as has already frequently been the case in the past, will be toppled by reality. The Afghan people's desire for a peaceful, calm life is too strong. The process of national conciliation during which ever new formations of dushmans are laying down their arms gathers strength. The Afghan people are defending their right to social progress, peace, and sovereignty. This is demanded by the interests of ensuring a political settlement for the crisis around the DRA. This is also required by the memory of those who gave their lives for Afghanistan's free future.

KABUL NEWS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTED

LD191220 Moscow TASS in English 1204 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul March 19 TASS -- "At the Geneva session of the U.S. commission on Human Rights, the Afghan delegation issued a fitting rebuff to the fabrications of calumniators who talk about 'violations of human rights in the DRA', 'danger for Islam', and 'Soviet occupation'", stated Sarwar Yorash, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA).

He spoke at a press conference which was organized by the BAKHTAR News Agency for local and foreign journalists in the Afghan capital today.

"The truth is," he said, "That the countries of the West go on waging the undeclared war against Afghanistan."

"Specifically, a rabid anti-Afghan campaign launched by bourgeois mass media is one of the aspects of the war."

Speaking of the resolution which had been adopted in Geneva about the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Sarwar Yoresh pointed out that it had been obviously of one-sided and biased character.

"We are prepared to invite to the DPA all those who, while knowing nothing about the realities of our country, undfoundedly talk about the human rights situation in Afghanistan," he said.

Said Ahmad and Haji Sultan Mohammad [names as received], leaders of armed formations that had taken the side of the people's power, took part in the press conference. They pointed out that the Afghan people had got sick and tired of the fratricidal war which had been going on for almost nine years. This was why the PDPA's and the Afghan Government's call for national reconciliation had met with countrywide support.

The BAKHTAR News Agency issued a statement condemning the United States' and its allies' course leading to a continuation of the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The statement was read out at the press conference.

U.S. 'CONNIVED' AT PAKISTAN N-BOMB PROGRAM

PM160857 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Yu. Gavrilov article: "Washington Connivance at Islamabad's Nuclear Ambitions"]

[Text] The recent statement by Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadir Khan that Pakistan posseses a nuclear bomb is escalating into a political scandal these days. Its reverberations are increasing in Pakistan itself, as well as in India, the United States, and other countries.

For a long time the Islamabad leaders tried their best to disavow warnings of the work public and press concerning Pakistan's nuclear ambitions. Assurances were constantly heard from Islamabad on the nuclear research of "peaceful nature." A.Q. Khan's admission, which instantly made the rounds of many world press organs, and the commentaries on it cleared up a great deal of questions.

First, the real nuclear ambitions of the Pakistani regime's leaders are becoming obvious. Britain's FINANCIAL TIMES points out that there are strong sentiments among them to openly admit "the country's present nuclear potential." It was not for nothing that, despite the scandal which has broken, Z. Noorani, Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, announced in the National Assembly the intention of continuing "research in the nuclear sphere" in defiance of pressure from "certain countries." Here he emphasized that "Pakistan will not consent to one-sided infringement of its national security interests."

Second, it has been confirmed that the Pakistani regime possesses the material and technicl potential to produce its own nuclear weapons. Citing a secret report by Pentagon intelligence, THE WASHINGTON POST reports that at the secret nuclear installation located at Kahuta the Pakistanis have succeeded in enriching uranium to a level suitable for use in a nuclear explosion. And this is the U.S. experts' conclusion: Pakistan is already able to manufacture annually four or five atomic warheads equal in yield to the Hiroshima atomic explosion.

And, finally, the scandal over A.Q. Khan's statement has clearly shed light on the fact that Washington itself has manifestly connived at Islamabad in its nuclear preparations. The well known Indian publicist (V.D. Chopra) has declared that the Pentagon played an active role in efforts to turn Pakistan into a nuclear power. Exposing Washington's attempts to sweep aside accusations that it knew about the Ziaul Haq regime's nuclear preparations, THE HINDUSTAN TIMES reasonably points out: "... The U.S. Administration has long known all the details of Pakistan's nuclear program but misinformed Congress by declaring that Pakistan does not intend to create weapons. After 'Irangate' President Reagan just cannot afford another similar exposure."

This desire to suppress a scandal so unwelcome to the Washington Administration accounts for attempts by U.S. and Pakistani official spokesmen to conceal the Pakistani nuclear scientist's revelation from the general public. Under pressure from them A.Q. Khan was hastily forced to deny his own statement -- this appears extremely unconvincing.

Why do people on the banks of the Potomac River cast doubt on the Islamabad generals' desire to cross the "nuclear threshold"? This is an open secret. The Reagan administration insists that the Symington Amendment be repealed with regard to Pakistan. That amendment, submitted to Congress, prohibits U.S. economic and military aid to countries working on creating nuclear weapons. And right now the U.S. Congress is discussing granting Pakistan such aid totalling more than $4 billion over the next 6 years.

Finding themselves in a delicate situation, U.S. officials are putting a brave face on a sorry business. Giving military aid, they claim, will not add fuel to their ally's "nuclear marathon" but will almost prevent Pakistan from "taking the next step on the road to joining the nuclear club."

In short, Washington is ready to continue building up the Pakistani regime's military might while bypassing its own legislation. It does not wish to sacrifice this big aid program for "that strategically important country to prevent Pakistan from building nuclear weapons," the U.S. press writes. By all accounts, Washington intends only to "publicly object" to the Islamabad ally's nuclear program. This will be accompaniment for pursuing the former policy of strengthening the military-political alliance with Pakistan.

The United States does not seek to hide the thrust of this dangerous alliance. "Our aid to Pakistan," State Department Spokesman C. Redman frankly declared recently," is important for maintaining Pakistan's ability to counter attacks from the USSR and, consequently, important for supporting the Afghan resistance" (dushmans -- Yu. G.). This is in addition to blackmail and making threats against India and other countries whose anti-imperialist policy is not to the United States liking.

ARISTOV DISCUSSES TIES WITH JARUZELSKI

LD191952 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] In Warsaw Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of Poland's Council of State, has received Aristov, USSR minister of foreign trade. During their conversation particular attention was paid to joint efforts to speed up the development and reorganization of the national economic structures of the two countries and to deepen integration among CEMA member countries. They also discussed the development of new direct forms of economic links between the Soviet Union and Pland.

POLISH SEJM CONCLUDES 2-DAY SESSION 19 Mar

LD192201 Moscow TASS in English 2124 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Warsaw March 19 TASS -- The Sejm of the Polish People's Republic wound up its two-day session here today. The deputies of the country's supreme legislative authority discussed the government's information on the directions and objectives of Poland's foreign policy and on the international situation and adopted a resolution on this issue.

It says that the Soviet Union's proposal for dismantling medium-range missiles in Europe creates a situation on our continent which is instrumental to the European states' new approach to overcoming the existing differences in issues of security.

The Polish People's Republic will vigorously act in support of the USSR's initiative, the resolution points out.

PZPR WORKERS DISCUSS RESTRUCTURING DURING VISIT

PM171323 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A delegation of PZPR party workers headed by W. Loranc, chief of the PZPR Central Committee Ideology Section, was in the Soviet Union 9-13 March in accordance with the plan for CPSU-PZPR interparty ties.

The Polish comrades familiarized themselves with the progress in the restructuring of the CPSU's ideological work in the light of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum decisions. There was an exchange of opinions on question of preparations for and the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October, and on the implementation of the program for development of CPSU-PZPR ideological cooperation in the period through 1990.

They had conversations in the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Section, the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, the Ryazan CPSU Obkom, Moscow's Gagarinskiy CPSU Raykom, the Political Enlightenment House of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom and Obkom, the editorial offices of the journal POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE and the Plakat Publishing House; they also visited labor collectives in the city of Ryazan and met members of the party aktiv.

The delegation was received by V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Polish Ambassador to the USSR W. Natorf took part in the conversation, which proceeded in a warm friendly atmosphere.

POLISH INDUSTRIES MINISTER DISCUSSES COOPERATION

LD121842 Warsaw PAP in English 1615 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, March 12 -- Edward Grzywa, the Polish minister of the Chemical and Light industries ended his four day visit here today.

During his stay minister Grzywa conducted talks with Yuriy Bespalov, the minister of the chemical industry, Vladimir Klyuyev, the minister of light industry, Nikolay Lemayev, the minister of the oil-refining and petrochemical industry, Nikolay Olszanski, the minister for the production of mineral fertilizers [name, title as received], Boris Aristov, the minister of foreign trade, and with Lev Telegin, first deputy minister of the medical and microbiological industry.

At the end of his visit Minister Grzywa was received by Vladimir Gusyev, the first vice-chairman of the Soviet Union's Council of Ministers.

The state of the programmes of bilateral economic cooperation and the development of trade exchange in the present five year period was evaluated during the meetings. The stte of preparations for the establishment of a joint Polish-Soviet enterprise, which will be created as a result of expanding the Krakow-based "Pollena-Miraculum" plant, was also discussed.

Preparations for the construction of a Polish-Soviet spinning mill in Biala Podlaska were discussed in the Ministry of the Light Industry.

The undertaking of activities for the creation of other joint Polish-Soviet enterprises, in the light and pharmaceutical industries, among others, was deemed necessary.

The program of mutual assistance in the area of upgrading technological processes, and the modernization and intensification of production was also discussed. Groups of the best technology specialists and engineers from Poland will come to the Soviet Union, while Soviet specialists will travel to Poland later this month.

HUNGARY'S ACZEL MEETS YAKOVLEV, MEDVEDEV

LD190036 Moscow International Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Between 16 and 18 March, Gyorgy Aczel, member of the MSZMP Politburo and director of the Sociology Institute attached to the MSZMP Central Committee, paid a visit to Moscow. He held discussions at various departments of the CPSU Central Committee, the Academy of Social Sciences, the Marxism-Leninism Institute attached to the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Academy of Science, and the National War and labor Veterans Committee.

He met Aleksandr Yakovlev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, and Vadim Medvedev, secretary of the Central Committee. The talks, which took place in a warm comradely atmosphere, were also attended by Sandor Rajnai, Hungarian ambassador in Moscow.

YAKOVLEV VIEWS INTERNATIONAL TIES DURING SPAIN TOUR

PM191303 Madrid YA in Spanish 12 Mar 87 pp 23-24

[Interview with CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and Central Committee Secretary Aleksandr Yakovlev by Enrique Serbeto in Madrid; date not given]

[Text] [Serbeto] From what we know in the West, the CPC has also begun a process of reforms. At the same time, China and the Soviet Union are exchanging gestures of rapprochement with increasing intensity. But in Beijing the party authorities have had to "brake hard" on the reform. Could this happen in the Soviet Union?

[Yakovlev] I am no expert on China and cannot tell you what is happening inside China. I know that there is some process of reform, or at least that is what is said. I would not venture to talk about whether the two processes are similar or different. What I do know is that each country processes develop differently, depending on political and economic development, traditions, and many factors which make the circumstances different. As regards Soviet-Chinese relations, these are now undergoing a favorable process. There are fewer and fewer problems for exchanges between the two countries, especially in the scientific, cultural, and economic fields. This is advancing on the basis of tolerance. There are also talks on border problems. We have our viewpoints and the Chinese have theirs. Therefore, time, tolerance, and mutual respect are needed, because important things are not done quickly.

[Serbeto] Which factors -- the economic or the political -- carried most weight in planning the contents of the renewal -- the "perestroyka," as you say? Which aspects was it intended to improve?

[Yakovlev] We consider the factors of political and economic development together, because political development cannot occur unless it is underpinned by economic measures. We are attempting not to make great strides in the economy but, as we say, to improve the political systems, especially in the superstructure. When we have resolved the economic problems with new mechanisms, we would like to achieve an acceleration of socioeconomic development and to attain a new qualitative level of Soviet society. Of course this should be built on peace. That is for us the most profound significance of socialist democracy.

New Enterprises [subhead]

[Serbeto] On several occasions you have especially mentioned the plans to give enterprises a greater degree of self-management and autonomy. Does this mean that enterprise directors will be able to ask for credit, negotiate interest rates, and risk money? What will happen to enterprises which go bankrupt?

[Yakovlev] Yes, enterprises will be able to ask for credit, but they will have to prove that they will have to prove that they have the ability to ask for it and repay it. As far as the bankruptcy of an enterprise is concerned -- yes, this is a very complex problem for us, because we cannot shut down an enterprise and turn the people out. The government can always grant aid or credit, but if the enterprise has been performing badly for a long time, it can be shut down, with the sole stipulation that the workers have other jobs, or change occupations, and are given housing elsehwere. This possibility is not ruled out in the new enterprise law which we are preparing for this summer.

[Serbeto] In general, most of the "perestroyka's" theoretical principles are not new in socialist dialectics, and even in some of the points which you emphasize a certain similarity with the demands of the Polish Solidarity trade union is to be noted.

[Yakovlev] I do not believe so. Self-management is a well-known Marxist position. Marx spoke of it, but we are referring to collectives' more active participation in directing programs, with more direct influence over enterprises' administration, management, and results, including the choice between selling their output independently or through the state network. We are really achieving better results than with the previous production relations, which entailed certain delays in development and were in no way an encouraging factor. If we are talking about the theoretical principles, we are engaged in improving the superstructure so that it will be in keeping with the production forces we have.

[Serbeto] You have said on several occasions that the political system makes the Soviets different and called for respect for that difference. Do you not believe that there is a contradiction betwen this desire for differentiation and the technological revolution and the new cultures which are tending increasingly toward the homogenization of the planet?

[Yakovlev] I believe that they are compatible. Each country has its own characteristics, but it is true that there are some things in common, such as the desire to live and to survive the nuclear threat. These are the most general human values. There are also ecological or health problems on which we can all cooperate -- for instance the disease of AIDS. In the USSR we have only 30 cases, of whom 29 are foreigners, and it represents no threat to us for the present, but we are making efforts to cooperate in the fight against this disease, because matters could change considerably in the future. We are different in our political system, in our cultural traditions, and in the methods we have chosen for our development, but we cannot give other countries lessons about how they should do things. I would certainly be making a fool of myself if I said that the Spanish people must do the same as we. You probably tell me that I am crazy, but why must the Americans tell us how to do things? Of course we laugh, but when they make an anti-Soviet policy of this, we also begin to think differently and our relations cease to be normal.

Human Rights, Internal Matter [subhead]

[Serbeto] When some journalist has asked you about human rights and political freedoms in the USSR, you have always replied that it is an internal matter, but Franco used to say that here in Spain, and, as has been seen, it does not prove that people are in agreement with the way in which they are governed.

[Yakovlev] What can I say to you? It is not a matter of the questions, which I believe most of you ask sincerely. However, but they are asked on the basis of an enormous wave of disinformation. I could also use that disinformation tactic, as the press often does. That is why we always attempt to demonstrate and explain that this is not so, but it is pointless. For instance, in the West there was an enormous campaign over the confinement of some people in psychiatric clinics, and an actual list of 12 people was produced. We allowed them to go abroad, but 11 of them were later also confined in Western psychiatric clinics and the other man committed suicide. No newspaper has reported this. This is one instance of how this propaganda is conducted. Apparently somebody is interested in maintaining the cold war atmosphere. There is grave confrontation, and we have some specific political aims and can only help each other sincerely, because socialism is the society of human rights -- the right to work, housing, medical care, education, and life -- but everything with our own resources, in which nobody can interfere.

We have certainly made mistakes, and we are now improving our legal system. We can now write freely about this. The newspapers have reported that some militiamen severely beat two or three people who were protesting. This has also been described in Western newspapers, talking about how the Soviet authorities treat people. But they did not say that we have dismissed the interior minister of the public where this happened, and that the militiamen are being tried.

[Serbeto] When you speak of mistakes, are you also referring to the events in Hungary or Czechoslovakia? Are events like those still possible?

[Yakovlev] We have the esteem of the Hungarians and Czechoslovaks and have very good relations with those countries. We therefore agree with the analysis of those events made by the Hungarians and Czechoslovaks themselves. The demands which were made in those countries were against socialism, to change the system, against the party and its role in society, but now we have another, completely different process. We are striving to strengthen socialism, and in order to have more socialism we need more democracy. The part is at the forefront of this process.

[Serbeto] Are you saying that the change seeks to dispel the historical fears of the Soviet Union, regarded as an expansionary power since the time of the czars?

[Yakovlev] You sometimes forget that it is Russia which has suffered most attacks. We had to free the Balkans from the Turks and Europe from fascism, but we defended ourselves alone against the Japanese and the Germans. As far as the czars' policy is concerned, it is clear that that colonial policy, which we do not deny, cannot be identified with us.

[Serbeto] However, you have some unresolved issues in this sphere, such as Afghanistan. In general, moreover, I have the impression (when you say that it was not an invasion, but you were called in by the Afghan Government) that you are saying the same things that the Americans used to say when they were in Vietnam.

[Yakovlev] I do not believe so. We have talked about Afghanistan from the first day, because we are the country that is most interested in withdrawing our troops from Afghanistan. If other participants in this conflict showed the same interest, everything would have been resolved, because we do not need to seek anything in Afghanistan, but we do not want our national border to be a source of threat. Some people forget that all this is happening on our borders and we have already had tragic experiences in this field before World War II.

[Serbeto] With respect to the proposal made by Mikhail Gorbachev to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2000, it seems, to be realistic, that this issue is not solely political, since the knowledge and the techniques for making new nuclear weapons exist and will continue to exist in the future in the hands of any country which so intends. For instance, Pakistan has just announced that it has a nuclear bomb. If the big powers destroy their deterrence arsenals, could they not remain in the hands of any country which has a single missile?

[Yakovlev] If the United States accepted this proposal by the Soviet Union, no sensible government could exclude itself from this process. Of course, where there is no stable government, a country could make new nuclear weapons, but if the United States and the Soviet Union begin the disarmament process and we succeed in reducing the arsenals to a reasonable level for their defense, all countries should join in this process, including France, Britain, and China. [paragraph continues]

Those countries believe that the process should be started by the Soviet Union and the United States, but at a certain stage disarmament should occur on a broader front.

European Unification [subhead]

[Serbeto] What is the Soviet Union's opinion of the process of European unification?

[Yakovlev] I know Europe's history a little from the scientific viewpoint, and politicially I believe that this issue will arise perhaps for the generation of your children or grandchildren. I believe that it is a very lengthy process. From the economic viewpoint, we believe that it is objectively unavoidable. Today nobody can develop in isolation, but as far as political unification is concerned, I know that there are nationalist feelings in many of the European countries, and it seems to me that they are not weakening and are sometimes increasing. There are problems with the development of the national cultures and even with national pride. There is a good deal of talk about this process, but I do not believe in it. As far as the Eastern bloc countries are concerned, these processes do not worry us at all, provided that they are peaceful and not directed against us.

[Serbeto] Let us talk about current relations with the United States.

[Yakovlev] They are very complex relations, and it cannot be said that they are going well. We would like to improve them, but one side's desire is not sufficient in specific instances. If we consider the steps taken by the United States over the past 6 or 8 years, almost all the agreements have been eliminated. Now cultural relations have been restored slightly and commercial flights have been resumed, but we see no signs of an improvement until the disarmament problems which we deem fundamental are tackled. I believe that these relations thus remain incomplete. We will carry on with the negotiations on nuclear and conventional disarmament and on the elimination of bacteriological and chemical weapons. Our progam in this respect is well-known. Now it seems that there could be some light, but the disinformation propaganda which has built up a great deal of hatred must first be stopped. Have you seen the movie "Amerika?" It is not something whose influence on Soviet peoples worries us. We would even be interested in showing this movie in the USSR, and the only thing that would happen is that the Soviet people's good feelings toward the Americans would diminish, because people would not understand how a movie leveled against another country could be made.

[Serbeto] Would the Soviet Union undertake any program in response to a possible starting of the U.S. SDI?

[Yakovlev] We believe that the SDI is an unfeasible project -- a fantasy which exists only in movies. It has a pointless dispute and a destabilizing project. We have no intention of responding with another, similar project, but nor will we sit back and do nothing. The debate about shields against new weapons is very old and has always had the effect of creating new weapons. We have already warned the Americans that in the event we would organize our countermeasures. I will not enter into technical details, but it seems to me that it is much easier to destroy one of the SDI space platforms, which would be in fixed and predictable orbits, than to place them there. Our response would therefore cost approximately 2 or 4 percent of the expenditure which the United States intends to devote to the SDI.

Satisfaction at Visit to Spain [subhead]

[Serbeto] As regards this visit to Spain, what is the political assessment?

[Yakovlev] An assessment cannot yet be made because there are still several days' stay in Spain left, but at the political level the contacts which I have had with his majesty the king, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, the foreign minister, and the speakers of parliament can be described as very important. I feel very satisfied because I have found points of agreement on many aspects, as well as a desire to improve relations and to take steps to bring more order into our common European house, from which we wish to remove those nuclear "toys" which have recently been played with irresponsibly. I believe that Spain has taken a historic step in declaring your country free from nuclear weapons. This is a great step forward and demonstrates that the Spanish people's state of mind in very sensible and responsible.

Visit Reviewed

PM191019 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[V. Vernikov Madrid dispatch: "Luis Fajardo: We Are Sincerely Pleased With the Meeting"]

[Text] A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Foreign Affairs Commissions headed by A.N. Yakovlev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission, was in Spain on an official visit for exactly 1 week.

This was not the first visit by Soviet parliamentarians -- since 1984 there have been two visits by each side, which is evidence of the increasingly strong permanent contacts between representatives of both countries' supreme organs of power and attests to the development of mutually advantageous cooperation between the USSR and Spain. The present visit, which took place at the invitation of the Spanish Cortes Congress of Deputies Foreign Affairs Commission, will, without doubt, become another landmark in this respect. The meetings between the Soviet parliamentarians and their Spanish colleagues, political and state figures, and representatives of the country's public allowed them to become thoroughly acquainted with life in Spain today, with its achievements and problems, hopes and fears.

The exchanges of opinions touched on a broad range of issues relating to the lives of both countries and the state of affairs in the world and revealed the Spanish side's great interest in the restructuring process taking place in the Soviet Union and in the Soviet leadership's approach to international problems -- primarily those of disarmament and limiting the arms race, but particularly the problem of removing medium-range missiles from Europe.

During the meetings and conversations the Soviet delegation once again stressed that the course aimed at restructuring in the USSR reaffirms the consistency of the Soviet Union's peace-loving policy, its reliability as a partner in negotiations, and its desire to increase its involvement in the international division of labor and expand its ties with other countries.

Parliamentarians play a very responsible role in forming and strengthening a climate of trust between countries. This was also discussed during the Soviet delegation's visit to Madrid, and both sides were unanimous that it is essential to make every effort to strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between our countries. This is what Luis Fajardo, chairman of the Cortes Congress of Deputies Foreign Affairs Commission, said to me:

"We are sincerely pleased with this new meeting with Soviet parliamentarians and are glad that our relations are following an upward trend. The wind of change blowing in the world and the hopes felt by people today are largely connected with the USSR's foreign policy and the Soviet peace initiatives. Spanish interest in the events taking place in your country is hard to overestimate, and we hope that during our next visit to the USSR, which is planned for this fall, we will witness these changes for ourselves and strengthen Soviet-Spanish relations for the good of our peoples."

FORMER ENVOY FALIN ASSESSES 'OFFER' BY FRG'S KOHL

LD191311 Hamburg DPA in German 1157 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Bonn (DPA) -- The offer from Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl for increased cooperation with the East is in the eyes of former Soviet Ambassador to Bonn Valentin Falin an attempt to "build bridges not between two banks, but along the river." Falin views the ideas in the chancellor's government statement on this point as more relevant to the past than to the future. Speaking to journalists in Bonn today, Falin however added that he would give no final verdict. Government statements need time to be fully understood.

Falin, currently director of NOVOSTI, the Soviet news agency, did not go as far in his criticism of Kohl as the official news agency TASS the day before. He called the chancellor's remarks "not uninteresting," and did not see any reason for disappointment yet. What is important is that difficulties be cleared by way of concrete steps in the interests of both sides. The ex-diplomat announced new contacts for the continuation of dialogue between Moscow and Bonn. At the moment, both sides are pondering over how long-term interests can best be served.

The former ambassador affirmed that the new course of Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev is not a development "due to current economic factors," but rather is aimed for a period of decades. He said the same is true of Soviet environmental policy, which has the worldwide aim of not pillaging resources to the detriment of future generations.

RYZHKOV RECEIVES BRITISH AMBASSADOR 19 MAR

LD191734 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1652 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 19 Mar (TASS) -- Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received Brian Cartledge, the ambassador of Great Britain to the USSR, in the Kremlin today at the latter's request. A number of questions of mutual interest were touched on in the conversation which took place.

JOINT EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC TALKS OPEN 18 MAR

LD191918 Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS -- A draft Soviet-Egyptian agreement for the further development of bilateral economic relations is being discussed in Moscow by an Egyptian governmental delegation led by the Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Yusri 'Ali Mustafa. The delegation arrived here on March 18 to hold talks on trade, economic, currency and financial situation. The leader of the Soviet governmental delegation, Viktor Dementsev, chairman of the board of the State Bank of the USSR, and Yusri 'Ali Mustafa have held a conversation.

LYSENKO VISITS PDRY, MEETS PRESIDIUM LEADER

PM181319 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "High Appraisal"]

[Text] Aden, 15 Mar -- H.A.B. al-Attas, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, highly appraised the relations between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union based on the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the two friendly states. Yesterday he received N.I. Lysenko, USSR deputy fish industry minister, who is here at the head of the Soviet delegation to the 13th session of the USSR and PDRY Mixed Commission on Marine Fishing.

CONTINUED REPORTAGE ON GILASHVILI DELEGATION

Meets With Parliament

PM191055 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent F. Konopikhin dispatch: "Deputies' Talks"]

[Text] Luanda -- The visiting group of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies headed by P.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has met with Lucio Lara, first secretary of the People's Assembly (parliament), and other Angolan parliamentarians in the Palace of Congresses.

Angola ardently supports the Soviet Union's peace initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race, preventing its spread to space, averting a nuclear catastrophe, and creating a nuclear-free world, L. Lara stated during the talk.

L. Lara discussed the situation which Angola is experiencing as a result of the actions of external enemies of the people's system. He stressed that South Africa is the main destabilizing force in the region. The U.S. Administration's policy is promoting a deterioration in the situation in southern Africa. On the pretext of settling regional conflicts Washington is crudely interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states and waging a campaign against progressive countries and peoples.

P.G. Gilashvili discussed the organization of the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the local soviets with their tasks and problems, and dwelt on the role of the standing commissions.

He expressed solidarity with the "frontline" states, which are defending their inalienable right to independent development in the face of the intrigues of international imperialism and racist South Africa, and with the courageous struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia against apartheid and for their freedom and independence.

The Angolan parliamentarians showed great interest in the processes of domestic life in the USSR and the content and progress of the restructuring outlined by the 27th CPSU Congress. The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies also spoke to a collective of Soviet citizens working in Angola.

Meets With President, Officials

PM191557 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Dispatch by F. Konopikhin and A. Korzun, IZVESTIYA own correspondent and TASS correspondent: "Guests of Angola"]

[Text] Luanda -- Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA]-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola [PRA], has received a visiting group of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies headed by P.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

He emphasized the great significance of the Soviet parliamentarians' visit and advocated expanding such contacts.

In the situation which has been created in southern Africa, when a real threat has appeared of direct U.S. interference aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region's independent states, he declared, every manifestation of support and solidarity with the peoples of the continent plays an ever increasing role. The president evaluated highly the Soviet peace initiatives aimed at finally eliminating nuclear weapons, ending the arms race, and preventing the militarization of space.

During talks with Afonso Van Dunem, member of the Politburo, secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, minister of external relations, and chairman of the PRA People's Assembly External Relations Commission, there was a frank and useful exchange of opinions on problems of mobilizing African states for the struggle to strengthen peace and international security, as well as on the situation in southern Africa. The Soviet parliamentarians assured the PRA leadership of immutable support for the struggle of the peoples of Angola and other "front-line" states against the aggressive intrigues of international imperialism and the racist Republic of South Africa [RSA] and in defense of sovereignty and independence.

On the same day the group of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies had a meeting with members of the PRA People's Assembly Standing Commission. Participating in it were Juliao Mateiu Paulo, member of the Politburo and secretary of the, PLA-Labor Party Central Committee for Questions of State and Legal Organs; Roberto de Almeida, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee for questions of ideology; Antonio Jacinto, candidate member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Politburo; Lucio Lara, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and first secretary of the PRA People's Assembly; (Rut Neto), member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and secretary general of the Angolan Women's Organization; and also Jose Franca Dias Van Dunem, minister of justice.

This visit by a group of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies helps to strengthen mutual understanding between the Soviet and Angolan peoples and to broaden parliamentary ties between the USSR and the PRA, J. Mateus Paulo delcared at the meeting. We are presented with an opportunity, he said, to learn in greater detail about the great changes occurring in the USSR since the historic 27th CPSU Congress and about the important measures of the party and the government in all spheres of the life of Soviet society.

The PRA People's Assembly gave a reception in the Soviet parliamentarians' honor. The reception was attended by J. Mateus Paulo, L. Lara, R. Neto, and J. Franca Dias Van Dunem.

Angola supports the Soviet Union's peace initiatives aimed at achieving world peace and international security, J. Mateus Paulo declared. The USSR, he said, has been and still is the bulwark of all peoples that advocate peace and social progress. For many years our republic has been living under conditions of the undeclared war unleashed by international imperialism and the racist RSA. With U.S. connivance the Pretoria regime commits constant acts of aggression against the PRA and infiltrates onto its territory gangs of the puppet grouping of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. However, no intrigues by internal and external reaction will make us turn from the chosen path of socialist development. Relying on support from the USSR and Cuba, the Angolan people are dealing a resolute rebuff to the imperialist forces' encroachments on the motherland's sovereignty and independence.

Addressing local and foreign journalists at a press conference in the Angolan capital, the head of the group of Soviet parliamentarians pointed out that the trip had been undertaken to reassure friends in the "front-line" states of the immutability of the Soviet Union's firm and consistent line of continuing and deepening all-around cooperation with then. The choice of itinerary was determined by the fact that an acute knot of crises fraught with the danger of escalation into a major international conflict has taken shape in this region. Its prime cause and essence is the criminal policy of the racist RSA regime, which with maniacal persistence metes out bloody reprisals against all who struggle against the misanthropic apartheid system.

Nothing that the world community rightly regards the question of eliminating apartheid in the RSA as a very important international problem, the group head pointed out that the West in the form of the United States and Britain proceeds from self-seeking political and economic interests and connives at the racists, preventing the world community from employing all-embracing compulsory sanctions against the RSA in accordance with the UN Charter.

"We are ready to elaborate appropriate measures together with all interested sides which advocate in practice, and not in words, freedom, justice, and peace in southern Africa. It is only necessary to ensure that, in so doing, the legitimate interests of the peoples living here are not infringed," P.G. Gilashvili emphasized. The unsolved nature of regional conflicts, he pointed out, complicates the already critical situation in the world, when the question of whether mankind will be able to avoid the threat of destruction, which has already become a reality, is on the agenda.

Ends Visit, Departs for Zambia

MB191219 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation which had been in Luanda since Monday ended its working visit to our country yesterday (?after holding talks) with Angolan deputies. The Soviet delegation, led by Pavel Gilashvili, member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, yesterday met with a group of deputies from the Luanda Provincial People's Assembly. During the meeting Pavel Gilashvili spoke about ongoing changes in the USSR and the measures adopted by the 27th CPSU Congress.

Orlando Rodrigues, first secretary of the Luanda Provincial People's Assembly, informed the Soviets about the country's (?prevailing) economic and political situation and the development plans and projects.

It will be recalled that the day before yesterday, after having been received by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the head of the Soviet delegation held a press conference during which he stated that Pretoria's criminal policy was the true cause and essence of the prevailing crisis in southern Africa.

The Soviet parliamentary delegation left Luanda yesterday for Lusaka on a working visit as part of its tour of several Frontline States.

PRAVDA ON JOURNALISTS' CONGRESS, AFANASYEV SPEECH

PM171621 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "On the Pulse of Restructuring; Sixth USSR Journalists Union Congress"]

[Text] Actively helping the party in the revolutionary process of transforming all aspects of society's life is the lofty vocation and responsible duty of the journalists of the Land of the Soviets. Pace-setters of the Soviet press are today striving to comprehensively demonstrate the living experience of restructuring and to find and widely propagandize the first shoots of what is new. Under the conditions of the development of democracy and openness the mass media are actively promoting extensive and frank consultation with the people by the party. Today the main task for workers in the press, radio, and TV is to help people to understand and grasp the ideas of the strategy of acceleration and to rouse the masses to the nationwide struggle for the successful fulfillment of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress.

For journalists it is important not only to profoundly reveal the essence of restructuring but to restructure work among creative collectives. Experience and analysis of the activity of the mass media in this direction and new responsible tasks were at the center of the attention of the delegates to the Sixth USSR Journalists Union Congress. It opened 14 March in the Hall of Columns of the House of the Unions in Moscow.

The congress delegates and guests greeted with applause Comrades G.A. Aliyev, L.N. Zaykov, Ye.K. Ligachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, M.S. Solomentsev, V.M. Chebrikov, E.A. Shevardnadze, P.N. Demichev, V.I. Dolgikh, N.N. Slyunkov, S.L. Sokolov, N.V. Talyzin, A.P. Biryukova, G.P. Razumovskiy, and I.V. Kapitonov.

The presidium included leaders of republic journalists unions, news agencies, and TV and radio broadcasting committees, chief editors of newspapers and magazines, and representatives of soviet and social organizations, creative unions, and worker and rural correspondents.

Among the guest were (K. Nordenstreng), president of the International Organization of Journalists [IOJ], J. Kubka, secretary general of the IOJ Presidium, and delegations from journalists unions in the fraternal countries.

A report on the work of the USSR Journalists Union and its tasks in the light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress was delivered by V.G. Afanasyev, chairman of the union's board.

It is 5 years since the last, the fifth, Congress of USSR Journalists.

Initially these were years of realization of the need for a sharp turnaround in our life, while the last 2 years were years of decisions and years of renovation.

The CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum proclaimed the course of accelerating our country's development. This fundamentally new course of our party was reaffirmed, creatively developed, and comprehensively deepened by the 27th CPSU Congress. The congress very clearly voiced the idea of the mutual penetration of acceleration and restructuring. To accelerate we must restructure ourselves. [paragraph continues]

First and foremost it is necessary to abandon everything stagnant or obsolete. The congress worked out the general line and the party strategy of acceleration.

The CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum provided an in-depth critical analysis of the state of affairs and summed up the first results of restructuring. Its main importance is that it worked out the means of acceleration and the means of restructuring. Chief among these are the profound development and all-around improvement of our democracy.

Our path to the future lies through democracy, openness, and truth. The success of our progress along this path will largely depend on how our press and we journalists work and operate. Never before has the press enjoyed such profound trust from the party and the people. Never before has the responsiblity of the press been so great.

Justifying this trust and proving equal to the great tasks facing us is the sacred duty of Soviet journalists. The January Plenum, as M.S. Gorbachev stressed at his meeting this February with leaders of the mass media and propaganda, provided the theory and policy of restructuring and turned the line of the 27th CPSU Congress toward practical matters in all directions. The plenum's importance lies primarily in its forward-looking approach and its bold work for the long term.

The keynote speaker dwelt on the main avenues of journalists' activity in the economic, sociopolitical, and ideological spheres of Soviet society's life. We journalists, he noted, are solving two exceptionally complex and responsible tasks.

The first is to reflect with the utmost accuracy the progress and results of restructuring in life and to help the party and state to achieve success in restructuring and in accelerating the country's socioeconomic development.

The second is to restructure ourselves -- the Soviet mass media, newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, news agencies, and book publishers.

Among the reasons hindering restructuring, the main speaker noted the underassessment of a systematic approach to reality and to the resolution of the tasks facing society. For instance, we solve production tasks but forget about solving social and human tasks. The prime task for us journalists is to struggle uncompromisingly to resolve social problems and to struggle for man and the creation of the most favorable conditions for his work, life, leisure, and relaxation.

Or: We solve economic problems and create production capacities, but we forget about nature, about the cradle which nurtured man and mankind, and in which we live, receiving everything but often giving nothing back to it. Even worse, we destroy it. Journalists, writers, and our society can be proud of their successes in nature protection. We are helping to prevent the thoughtless reversal of the northern rivers, we saved Baykal, Aral, and Ladoga from pollution, and we saved Yasnaya Polyana. Let us continue to fight to safeguard our environment and the purity of its rivers, lakes, seas, and air.

Looking at restructuring as a complex system, the keynote speaker noted that it encompasses all spheres of Soviet society's life without exception -- the economy, the political system, and social and spiritual life -- but journalists should devote paramount attention to the economy as the foundation of everything else. Restructuring encompasses all of society from top to bottom. People, labor collectives, and society are the main components of the vertical cross-section of restructuring. We do write about people, albeit not very often and sometimes poorly. We also write a great deal, and not always skillfully, about social problems. Collectives, labor collectives, remain somewhere in the background. The speaker called on journalists to step up their attention to labor collectives and to comprehensively research their characteristics and features -- economic, social, and spiritual.

Among the restructuring methods highlighted by the keynote speaker were economic methods, stressing that they should be at the center of press work. Discussing acceleration factors, the keynote speaker noted that one of the most important tasks now is to create a cost-cutting economic mechanism and to abandon the pursuit of gross indicators.

The press must very much step up its attention to this problem, after all, the next CPSU Central Committee plenum will be devoted to discussing and tackling this problem.

Among acceleration factors the main speaker particularly spotlighted the human factor. We must struggle together with the party and people for good conditions for people's work and leisure, he noted.

We obtain the highest returns only when we create the most favorable conditions for people in work and in life. This must be taken into consideration in our work too.

When directing our attention to the topic of working people, we do not always reveal their intellect, spiritual condition, interests, and feelings. People should not be over shadowed by statistics in the newspapers.

The press is being set new tasks under the conditions of the comprehensive dissemination of socialist democracy and the people's self-management. The CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum outlined an entire program for the elaboration of the problems of democracy in the press. Our task is to be guided by this program and implement it consistently, persistently, and systematically. Here there is positive experience: the fact that leaders are elected at production -- and most recently in soviet and party organs too -- the competition system, worker certification, and so forth.

It is important to support this experience, to protect it from formalism and bureaucratism, and to help in its widespread dissemination. The struggle against bureaucratism, formalism, and paper-pushing has been and remains an important task for the mass media.

The activation and mobilization of the human factor to solve the tasks of acceleration and restructuring presupposes a merciless campaign against antisocial phenomena and the purging of everything alien to us, harmful, or runs counter to the very essence of socialist society.

We sometimes forget our main task is not to reveal and castigate defects but to prevent and avert them. So we should seriously tackle the prevention of antisocial phenomena and crimes in particular. The most important means here is to universally instill discipline, organization, order, responsibility, and the most strict monitoring of the measure of labor and consumption.

Press workers' efforts help to create a healthy moral atmosphere in collectives and in the country as a whole. Nonetheless, by no means everything has been done in this sphere of the life of our society. There are shortcomings and unutilized potential here.

The main shortcoming is the lack of a systematic approach, working in fits and starts, and short-term campaigns. We fire off a few shots against one shortcoming or another and then stay silent until the next directive from above. Journalists' attention is often focused on petty secondary facts and small-scale enterprises and organizations. We are sometimes distracted by extraordinary occurrences and accidents. Nor are we averse to pursuing sensation. The press analyzes poorly the situation in sectors and at major key areas of the national economy. The positive experience of those enterprises where labor and technological discipline is high is rarely generalized. The role and potential of party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and the role and place of Communists in instilling order at production and in life are inadequately revealed.

The predilection for featuring purely administrative methods of influencing violators of the norms of law and morality is noticeable. The strengthening of public opinion, collectives, and the entire system of our democracy is poorly propagandized.

The acuteness of the perception of the problem of drunkenness and alcoholism has become blunted. Little is written about the organization of leisure.

It is necessary to step up the publicity given in the press to the struggle against unearned income. Acute critical assessments are not always made of those party, soviet, and law enforcement organs which are, only slowly launching the struggle against unearned income. There is a notable predilection for articles on trials that have been held and for describing the details of crimes.

The speaker dwelt on certain sore points in our ideology and education. He noted that the press is meant to counter the revival of nationalist sentiments with ideas and deeds, fostering in people feelings of internationalism, friendship, and cooperation among the peoples. The press is meant to oppose the activation of religion and religious views and ceremonies with a scientific dialectical materialist philosophy and our Soviet customs and ceremonies.

This work must be stepped up and conducted systematically and consistently.

One other problem from the human sphere is the attitude to history and our spiritual legacy.

Our ideological opponents try to draw us into discussions about the past, and particularly about the mistakes made during the establishment of a socialist society. Sometimes journalists and writers "take" the bait. This is done purely to distract us and make us abandon our general path so as to discredit the past, and simultaneoulsy the present -- particularly the course of acceleration which the party has set. There have been happy and bitter times in our history, and that is why it would be a profound mistake to focus our attention on the bitter times. We should not forget names -- much less whole periods -- in the history of a people who lived, believed, and worked under party leadership for the sake of socialism.

The sacred task of Soviet journalism is to provide the constructive truth in our newspapers, on the TV, and on the airwaves and to reflect the people's life and destiny in its real dialectics, complexity, and contradictions and with its achievements and mistakes.

The mass media are currently taking a very serious test -- a test of how to reveal more deeply and comprehensively the rich theoretical, political, and practical content of the materials of the 27th CPSU Congress and the January (1987) Central Committee Plenum and, above all, how to help the party more effectively, professionally, and smoothly in implementing the congress decisions, in restructuring, and in accelerating the country's socioeconomic development.

Newspapers, magazines, the radio, TV, and news agency materials are featuring new topics and rubrics. "Roundtables," discussions, debates, special assignments, and campaigns are being held --- yes, the press is restructuring, and this restructuring is particularly noticeable in the central press, primarily because the party Central Committee and the Central Committee Secretariat and Politburo are devoting an exceptionally great deal of attention to the press and are directly guiding it. In mid-February this year there was a meeting with journalists at the CPSU Central Committee. This 6-hour meeting, a discussion meeting, and frank dialogue was exceptionally interesting and fruitful. The speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the meeting contined a wide-ranging and specific program of action for the press at a time of restructuring and acceleration. Soviet journalists have armed themselves with this program.

Democratic traditions are quite deep and widespread in journalism. After all, press organs were always organs of collective leadership. These democratic traditions stem from V.I. Lenin. Under the new conditions we must make full use of them.

Restructuring in the press presupposes, of course, a whole series of organizational measures and the improvement of the structure of publications and the incentive system. Our readers do not care how many departmenst there are at the editorial bureau, who heads them, and what pay certain officials get. The important thing for the readers is the material itself that we give them and the content of our articles. That is why we must implement restructuring first and foremost in the sphere of the content of our articles.

There have been positive changes in republic and local publications. But, as was noted at the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, not all of them have really joined in restructuring as yet, and they lack principledness in posing questions and lack a critical attitude to shortcomings. Many party committees do not always make real use of the mass media -- that powerful lever of restructuring -- and in some places continue to shackle their activity.

They shackle and often simply stifle the critical thrust of the local press. It is by no means accidental that the party Central Committee has to intervene to restore the truth and justice and to support the press and honest people who are really rooting for the cause. The Central Committee has adopted around 10 resolutions on the press and its articles.

The speaker devoted particular attention to the regional press. He noted that regional newspapers feature little criticism, self-criticism, and a great deal of bluster. We must devote serious attention to this -- one of the fundamental components of our journalistic system.

Nonetheless restructuring in the press as a whole is proceeding slowly and with difficulty. Some journalists were unprepared and not competent to pose and solve the problems of restructuring and acceleration. Others floundered and were unable to collect themselves or abandon stereotyped thinking worked out at a time of stagnation, ostentation, and bluster. The tardiness of restructuring in life and reality, particularly locally, has also had an effect.

Journalists were also poorly informed, after all, we do not yet have comprehensive social statistics. The information available to journalists in general leaves something to be desired.

Yet the main reason for the tardiness in restructuring is our own journalistic tardiness and the unjustified expectation by some of us that everything would come about by itself.

No, it will not. The restructuring of the press is our journalistic affair, and we must carry it out actively, creatively, and as professionally as possible.

Discussing such an important problem as the effectiveness of press articles, the keynote speaker stressed that over the last few years, particularly since the April (1985) Central Committee Plenum and the 27th party congress, the reaction to critical articles has become swifter, more effective, and more resolute and the number of areas closed to criticism has been reduced. The rank of those criticized is loftier. These now include republic Communist Party Central Committees, ministers, kraykoms, and obkoms.

Nonetheless, the attitude to criticism cannot be recognized as normal.

Very regrettably, quite an extensive range of methods has been worked out willy-nilly for combating press criticism.

"Closed areas" to criticism still remain. Take space departments, for instance. In all cases they issue the ironclad formula: "The mechinisms are functioning normally, the cosmonauts are in excellent spirits." Without the blessing of these departments, the press can print nothing that does not suit them. An anachronism? Yes! Placing their iron fist on articles invariably concluding in "everything is in order," these departments deprive the press -- and its readers and our people with it -- of information on how dangerous and heroic cosmonauts' work is and how great, selfless, and heroic are these beloved children of the motherland. Yet it is through their example that we can and should educate our children and young people. All the more so since they are literally crazy about space.

One other closed area is ecology. Here too numerous agreements are needed, and with interested departments (the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, and others). With enormous difficulty and with the help of a Central Committee secretary PRAVDA managed to "force" publication of items on Baykal and the need to review the unusual plans to divert the flow of northern rivers toward the south.

Recently a quite simple but powerful means of refuting criticism has been used. At a congress or central committee plenum an obkom first secretary will criticize the central press (often in general terms and not specifically). [paragraph continues]

Now this oblast will be hard to criticize. Any criticism will be assessed as virtually the newspaper's revenge for the criticism. A new "closed area" for criticism arises.

Matters are reaching the point where people try to call into question Central Committee press organs' right to criticze obkoms. The argument is that a newspaper correspondent inexperienced in work in party organizations cannot judge their work.

The question arises: Since when and why should party newspaper journalists stop considering themselves party workers? The work of party press journalists has been and continues to be party work. This is the first point. Second, many journalists have for years worked directly in party organizations or, as journalists, have spent decades studying party work and have a thorough knowledge of it. Third and finally, criticism should be specific. Name a newspaper item, say what you disagree with, prove you are right, and the newspaper, if it is in error, will apologize.

Often press articles simply go unacknowledged and unanswered. Creative organizations, writers, and artists are especially ticklish about criticism. They not only fail to respond to criticism, but sometimes organize "anticriticism" campaigns. They are used to complimentary "criticism." The most widespread form of reaction to criticism (or rather, the rebuttal of criticism) is the formal reply -- an empty meaningless response. It gives the impression that criticism is being answered, but no effective measures are taken.

Often critical articles or readers' letters with their complaints and remarks are sent to the organizations being criticized or complained about. The results are well-known: They gently let things drop.

The attitude to those guilty of shortcomings and failings -- and sometimes even crimes -- is downright tolerant. The person criticized is given a warning, receives a "slap on the wrist," and at worst, reprimanded. Those criticized sometimes appeal to higher authorities. These sometimes act to protect those being criticized. These higher authorities jealously guard their departmental interests.

There are also preventive measures. No sooner is a correspondent assigned somewhere to criticze or collect critical material than the phone calls start. Attempts are made to hamper the article, and if that fails, they seek an acceptable smooth answer, phone the editorial bureau, and try to find out "who authorized it."

We know of many instances of direct or indirect stifling of criticism. "Critics," including journalists, are discredited, removed from work, expelled from the party, and sometimes even jailed.

The CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum stressed with particular force the need to continue developing openness, criticism and self-criticism -- the tried and tested tool of socialist democracy. A great role is allocated to the mass media. Condemning the refusal to accept criticism and cases of criticism being persecuted or directly stifled, M.S. Gorbachev stated the need to support press efforts to develop criticism and self-criticism. There should be no areas closed to criticism in Soviet society. That fully applies to the press too.

When criticising, it is necessary to outline ways of removing antisocial phenomena, but sometimes a one-sided approach to the airing of problems is permitted and attention turns to the interest or focus of the item. Above all it is necessary to consider what response it will generate in our society and our people. We must take account not only of the immediate effect of our articles, but of their consequences.

Criticism is a sharp tool and must be used skillfully, intelligently, and circumspectly. Criticism will only be effective when it is specific, and it will only be irreproachably accurate when it is creative. One-sidedness, distortion of the facts, and denigration of the honor and value of individuals and collectives are particularly impermissible. Those who do the criticizing must be answerable for their transgressions.

We must recognize that we do not always approach our own articles responsibly, we make mistakes, and permit inaccuracies, failings, and juggling with the facts. Sometimes we seek out sensations and "hot news." Such cases are the result of a superficial and one-sided approach to the problem.

Discussing the relationship between the critical (negative) and the positive in newspapers, the keynote speaker noted that most positive items are of little importance, are local, and have no social remifications. Newspapers feature the same old names. Journalists do little to seek positive experience of restructuring and travel the easiest, beaten path to well-known names and addresses. Positive experience of restructuring is still small and literally only grains of it exist. Collecting the grains of this experience, supporting it, and spreading it is the task the party is setting for journalists. We must resolve it. We must seek, seek, and seek again new addresses and names, disseminate positive cases more extensively, and, if you like, push forward/restructuring and help acceleration./ [passage within slantlines published in boldface]

One other problem. We write boldly, acutely, and interestingly about negative points. We have not yet learned to write just as well about positive points. Acquiring the art of writing well about good things is one of the most important tasks for journalists.

So, restructuring and acceleration in the work of mass media and the press presuppose primarily that its content be reviewed and the press turns to the problems of restructuring and the acceleration of Soviet society's socioeconomic development, the profound and comprehensive study and coverage of the factors of acceleration -- the scientific and technical revolution, the economic machinery, the entire management system, and the human factor. What have we got, what are our positive achievements, where are our shortfalls, and -- and this is the main point -- what must be done and how must it be done to ensure that acceleration becomes reality, a matter of our actual daily life: This is the supreme task of our press, radio, television, and book publishing.

To meet the demands of the time, it is necessary to steadily boost the skills and quality of work of journalists, of those who write and of those who edit, and to enhance demandingness and exactingness of both writers and editors.

The press still employs workers who are frankly inadequate. There are even more "mediocrities" who are simply filling in time for their wages. This is also encouraged by the leveling which still exists in the remuneration of journalists' labor. We must be firm in dismissing from our ranks people who are incapable of working in the press.

Certification is called upon to play an important role in the evaluation of journalists' work, the selection of the best, and their promotion. Many press organs have conducted certification. It has made it possible to get rid of the "ballast" and reveal the capable people and has given a fillip to the development of initiative. As a rule, certification was conducted under conditions of publicity, with participation by party, trade union, and other organizations and the entire collective. Unfortunately, there were also occurrences of formalism, settling of accounts, and dismissal of people who were regarded as unsuitable or obstinate.

An end must be put to wage leveling. The initial steps are already being taken in this direction. A number of central newspapers have switched to a new system of labor remuneration. Labor remuneration varies within the framework of the annual wages fund. Up to 50 percent of salary is paid as supplement in respect of high quality and skills.

From the skills of individuals to the skills of the many, and ultimately of the entire collective -- this is how we perceive the essence of restructuring in journalistic work and the enhancement of its quality.

We must be more active in seeking out talented authors (the country is rich in talent) and more broadly involving writers, publicists, scientists, workers, kolkhoz members, people who can think, who are familiar with their work, and are skilled with the pen. We must make better use of our own workers.

Leaders must be made bold in shouldering responsibility, unafraid of responsibility, and must make more broad use of their rights. We must abandon the numerous "coordinations," lengthy running in of materials, and "self-censorship" which diminish the efficiency of publications, prevent departure beyond the limits of customary and previously raised topics, and engender drabness and constraints on thought.

The speaker emphasized the need to improve information work and consolidate firm and systematic ties with ministries and scientific research institutes. It was noted that ministries and departments are essentially not interested in the press, while their information services have virtually turned into obstacles to obtaining information.

The genre uniformity of materials and the inadequate use made of the creative resources of various genre forms and their analytical and figurative potential remain a substantial shortcoming in the creative activity of journalists. More attention must be given to probing, social, and critical reporting, analytical interviews, correspondents' reports, current affairs dialogues, sociological portraits, features, and probing articles.

The speaker dwelt on questions of enhancing the role of the Soviet press in the struggle for peace. The central topic of press work in the foreign policy sphere is the propaganda of socialism as an alternative to capitalism and the advantages of socialism as a society of working people, a society of social justice and real democracy which rejects militarism and the policy of force, a society offering mankind a nuclear-free future.

The press strives to fully and comprehensively depict the peace-loving nature of the Soviet Union's foreign policy and to reveal the essence and importance of Soviet peace initiatives. [paragraph continues]

We must systematically prove that the efficiency of the USSR's peace-loving policy depends to a decisive extent on how successfully our internal affairs are conducted, on the contribution made by each Communist and each citizen to the achievement of success by the country as a whole.

The press, radio, and television are called upon to produce sound arguments to expose the reactionary essence of contemporary capitalism. It is our duty to keep up the well-argued criticism of bourgeois ideology and expose the reactionary policy of imperialism and the various lies about socialism. We must bear in mind that our adversaries are not idly standing by; their actions against real socialism and its policy and ideology are becoming increasingly perfidious and refined; they are being carried out on an increasingly broad scale, and are increasingly coordinated. This is why our ideological weapons must be perfectly accurate, sharp, modern, and invincible.

Speaking of the international activity of the Journalists Union, the speaker stressed that it is expanding and deepening. Ties are now maintained with more than 80 national journalists' orgnizations from 66 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The USSR Journalists Union is a member of four international specialized journalists organizations. The main avenue of the union's international activity is the deepening of existing forms of cooperation and the search for new efficient ones.

Growing attention has been given in the years since the union's fifth congress to the development and strengthening of ties with the International Organization of Journalists, the strengthening of the unity of the international democratic journalists movement's ranks, and the struggle for peace and cooperation among peoples and for social progress within the framework of the International Organization of Journalists.

Describing the union's creative activity, the keynote speaker noted the need to step up the work of elected organs. The efficiency of some board plenums was not high. The discussion of questions on the agenda was not always truly creative and did not tackle the pressing creative problems of Soviet journalism. A spirit of verbosity and mutual exchange of compliments reigned, and it was only the last few plenums that managed to overcome it to a certain extent.

Quite a few decisions by the secretariat helped to improve the work of the union and its organizations. Many decisions failed to produce a clear-cut program for action and did not take into account the real possibilities for their implementation. The execution of decisions was inadequately monitored, and matters were in fact left to take care of themselves.

With a view to further improving the secretariat's work, it would be purposeful to introduce the practice of its accountability to board plenums. This would introduce more democracy and publicity and would help to expand criticsm and self-criticsm and to enhance everyone's responsibility for the entrusted task.

Both our successes and our shortcomings are reflected, as if in a mirror, in the activity of republican, kray, and oblast journalists' organizations. On the whole, their work is still far behind the demands of restructuring. The conferences and congresses that were held noted that this work still contains much stage-management, formalism, and stereotypes, and there is an evident shortage of lively work.

Under present conditions, there has been a sharp growth of the role and position of primary journalists organizations, of which the union has about 5,000. This is where everything new and everything lively is born, this is where the front line of the struggle for acceleration and restructuring runs. The primary organizations must become the harbingers of new deeds, and we will actively support them in this.

The USSR Journalists Union is the largest and most powerful creative union. There are 100,000 journalists working in the country, and 85,182 of them are members of the union. About 6 million stringers work together with us. They are party, soviet, and economic workers, scientists, specialists, workers, and kolkhoz members. We are boundlessly grateful to them for their selfless labor and for their efforts to help the press solve the problems which perturb the party and the people.

Some people see us not as a creative but as a professional union, the speaker emphasized. We do not benefit from the privileges (and they are quite small) enjoyed by writers, painters, and cinematography workers. We do not have a journalists' fund. Journalists, especially at rayon and plant-newspaper [na mnogotirazhnom urovne] level, earn meager salaries. We are not spoiled in terms of apartments: About one-third of journalists privately rent space in apartments. Only about one-tenth of journalists can obtain travel vouchers to sanatoriums, rest homes, and boarding houses.

It is a sad fact, but a fact nevertheless. The journalist's prestige is declining. This undesirable phenomenon must be prevented. A law on the press is currently under preparation. The draft law is also being discussed in journalists organizations. There are objections, suggestions, amendments. They will all be examined and taken into account. We hope the law will enhance the authority of the press and the prestige of journalists.

The speaker outlined the draft new edition of the USSR Journalists Union Statute, which will be discussed at the congress. The basic idea underlying the proposed draft is to bring the main provisions of the union's statute into line with the demands of life, restructuring, and acceleration, and also to generalize the experience of journalists organizations in solving the tasks set by the 27th party congress to mass news and propaganda media and the USSR Journalists Union.

This year the party, the Soviet people, and the world's progressive public will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The press is striving to fully and comprehensively describe the path traversed by our country during the past 7 decades, its majestic successes in all spheres, and its bright future. Nor do we forget the shortcomings, difficulties, and unsolved problems.

We must elaborate measures to ensure that our journalists are in the front line of the major work being done in connection with preparations for the Great October's 70th anniversary. A few days ago we marked the 70th anniversary of IZVESTIYA. In May we will mark PRAVDA's 75th anniversary. These are not just holidays for our newspapers, they are holidays for our entire press.

The tasks facing the country and the party are clear, the means have been defined. we must act, and we must act boldly, creatively, and competently.

The report by the USSR Journalists Union Central Auditing Commission was delivered by its Chairman V.I. Novikov.

I.A. Zubkov, deputy chairman of the USSR Journalists Union Board, spoke on behalf of the Mandates Commission.

A greetings letter to the congress of DRA art workers, currently being held in Kabul, was adopted on behalf of participants in the Sixth USSR Journalists Union Congress.

The debates then started.

TV on Congress Opening

LD141944 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 14 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; correspondent Fatayev report on proceedings at the 14 March Union of Journalists Congress in Moscow]

[Text] The Sixth Congress of the USSR Union of Journalists opened today in the Hall of Columns of the House of Unions in Moscow. Participating in its work are Comrades Aliyev, Zaykov, Ligachev, Ryzhkov, Solomentsev, Chebrikov, Shevardnadze, Demichev, Dolgih, Slyunkov, Sokolov, Talyzin, Birtyukova, Medvedev and Kapitonov. [video shows leaders on the rostrum] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1400 GMT also lists Razumovskiy as participating]

[Correspondent Ye. Fateyev -- identified by screen caption] A thorough, keen, and honest discussion unfolded at the congress. This tone is the result of both the time in which we are living and the exceptionally important role played by the press, television and radio in the life of the country. The review report of the Board of the USSR Union of Journalists, delivered by Viktor Grigoriyevich Afanasyev, chairman of the board, analyzed the successes and failings of our press, television and radio. On the subject of unexploited opportunities, the rapporteur noted the absence of a systematic approach, and a passion for working erratically. Journalists often focus their attention on petty, secondary factors, and are still poor at seeking positive experience of restructuring, at gathering the grains of such experience, supporting and disseminating it. The party has placed this task before the press, and to meet today's requirements it is essential to constantly raise journalists' skill and the quality of their work. Here an appreciable influence should be exerted by the USSR Union of Journalists, which has more members than any other creative union in the country.

Those who spoke in the debate talked about galvanizing the union's work and the entire field of journalism. It was noted that many party committees do not always make proper use of the information media -- that powerful lever for restructuring -- and that in some places they continue to hamper the media's activities.

(Grigoriy Grigoriyevich Lazarev), editor of the rayon newspaper NOVAYA ZHIZN in Orel Oblast addressed the congress. [(Lazarev) shown addressing the congress]

[Begin (Lazarev) recording] As an editor I am concerned by the fundamental question of effectiveness -- the efficiency coefficient, so to speak of our work. Very often we work as though on the idle button. From whom do rayon newspapermen learn every hour and every day? From the central and oblast press. They are learning a principled approach, a topical and bold way of looking at problems. Each of us also wants to write such material, but the kinds of articles which excite the public appear in the major papers and not in ours. [paragraph continues]

If such an article were published in a rayon newspaper, for example, then it would stand out as a rarity and would, of course, go unanswered. Where and when did such a division ever occur, such a devaluation of our words? If something is printed in the central press then it is excellent and weighty, but if its printed in the rayon or wall press then its not worth a thing. Excuse my being so blunt, but that's really the ways things are. We've got various types of truth in publication -- the central truth, so to speak, is one version, the oblast truth another, and in the rayon... [end recording]

[Fateyev] A great deal of interesting experience has been gained in the work of the newspapers, television and radio since the party congress, but nonetheless, restructuring is proceeding slowly and with difficulty in the press as a whole. Perfection of the very organization of journalistic work is required. Here is what Andrey Konstantinovich Vorsobin, chairman of the Leningrad journalists' organization, said:

[Video shows Vorsobin addressing the congress]

[Begin Vorsobin recording] Obviously we can no longer tolerate the fact that the structures of our newspapers, which were created many decades ago, have become lifeless, that they are becoming a brake to tackling our new and extremely complex tasks. Unfortunately, our own creative union is not bothering itself over such problems. We are pretending that all this is beyond our competence. But why should it not be in our competence? After all, the party has entrusted us with this job. We are professionals; who is going to think for us about perfecting the work of newspapers? Who is going to go banging on doors for directives, or put forward business-like suggestions for specific work? Who, apart from ourselves? A mass of such questions has built up and we realize they cannot be resolved overnight. They do have to be tackled, and for that we need a clear program for restructuring the press itself. It is within our capabilities to collectively devise such a program, tying it up with cadres policy, with improving the material and technical base, and with the tackling of journalistic problems, about which we have already had a sufficiently poignant discussion. [end recording]

PRAVDA Cites Debate, Comments

PM161610 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "From a Standpoint of Openness"]

[Excerpts] Journalists' words are gaining new force and weight in the current restructuring. Our times, which are full of dynamism, demand an innovative approach to understanding the changes taking place in all spheres of Soviet society's life.

How to enhance the role of the press as collective organizer of restructuring, increase professional skill, and find the right tone in the dialogue with readers and viewers -- these questions are being eagerly discussed by the participants in the Sixth USSR Journalists' Union Congress, which continued its work in Moscow on 15 March.

On 14 March, after hearing the report on the work of the USSR Journalists' Union and its tasks in the light of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and the report of the Central Auditing Commission, the delegates embarked on the debate.

The press must restructure itself and reorganize itself at an accelerated rate, V.V. Chikin, chief editor of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, stressed, opening the debate. [passage omitted]

Newspaper editorial offices, N.Kh. Garifullina, editor of the Alma-Ata Oblast newspaper OGNI ALATAU, said in her speech, are receiving hundreds of letters rebuffing the nationalist manifestations which occurred and stressing that nobody will ever be able to undermine the fraternal unity and friendship of our country's peoples.

We, the journalists of Kazakhstan, are aware that shoddy work is never so costly as in ideological, party, and journalistic work. Where we are silent or do not do enough work, the vacuum is speedily filled by an alien morality and alien ideology. There is nothing more dangerous than standardized, stereotyped approaches in journalists' thinking and work.

In the republic, the speaker said, a process of normalization is under way, the mass media are undergoing restructuring, and the principle of justice is being established. [passage omitted]

A.Ye. Bovin, IZVESTIYA's political observer, dwelt on problems of restructuring in the work of international affairs journalists.

Imperialism is preparing for war, and a crushing war at that. Nobody can deny that. The struggle is also in progress on the ideological front, A.I. Kirilov, editor of the Baltic Military District newspaper ZA RODINU, said. Unfortunately we do not always see these matters raised in our civilian newspapers. Sometimes they are presented in simplistic form in items on subjects relating to the Soviet army: All is well, everyone is a hero.

Of course, our soldiers are patriots and internationalists, and do excellent service. Nonetheless the preparation of young people for army service does not yet meet today's demands. Performance has been well inculcated in the army, but there are not enough people capable of taking an independent decision. Yet what happens in combat is: I must assume command myself. These and other questions are being raised in our newspaper by military journalists.

Life is not easy in the army, the speaker concluded. But we are engaging in restructuring: We are fighting to overcome conservatism, stagnation, and other shortcomings. I think the Armed Forces will become stronger and better as a result. [passage omitted]

The debate continued on 15 March. [passage omitted]

Yu.A. Zhukov, PRAVDA political observer, dwelt on questions of concern to the detachment of international affairs journalists, which is not the largest, but which bears a great political load. International life today is fuller than ever before. Yet PRAVDA, which has six pages, allots only two of them to international events. Of course, that is not enough. Yet these two pages must also find room for official material. The speaker proposed the creation of a special newspaper to publish all official documents on international and domestic policy. All countries have such publications.

International observers, the speaker noted, must themselves relearn much, be bolder, and learn to write with concision. Most importantly, the political observer must really keep his finger on the pulse of the era and raise the necessary problems. [passage omitted]

The congress continues.

Bovin On Writers, Kremlin View

LD151416 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1217 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, Mar 15 (TASS) -- Alexsandr Bovin, political observer of the IZVESTIYA newspaper, spoke in favor of clear cut differentiation between official materials which express the point of view of the government and journalists' personal commentaries. He stressed from the platform of the Sixth Congress of the USSR Union of Journalists, which is in progress in Moscow for the second day, that it is necessary to accustom both Soviet reader and the whole world to the fact that "if a well-known observer is writing an article, it does not mean at all that he expresses the position of the Kremlin."

Restructuring will be impossible without this in Soviet international journalism, the observer said.

Whereas today in the Soviet press there are many interesting articles on internal subjects, which realistically reflect the processes of openness [glasnost] and restructuring, the "dominance of standard expressions, the checked and overchecked ones, the ruminated and overruminated ones, which do not give any food to thought or heart", still continues in the field of international journalism. The press is thereby undermining, Bovin states, its own credibility as a source of objective information and makes people look for other ways of obtaining "news".

The observer believes that the reason for this situation is that until now many journalists have perceived the complex processes underway in the world through the prism of old, long-obsolete forms. The times when "every article or broadcast is virtually regarded as an expression of the Soviet Union's official position" must become a thing of the past.

Aleksandr Bovin sees another shortcoming of Soviet journalism in the weakness of arguments and the use of mechanical epithets in place of proofs. Convincing criticism, he said, sets out the adversary's arguments as well, but many still prefer to "fight with shadows". It is essential to invite Western politicians and commentators on to Soviet television more often and to debate with them. "I am certain we have sufficient intelligence and skill to restructure our ideological foes," he said.

Kravchenko on TV Changes

LD151635 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1222 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar (TASS) -- "Soviet television has taken the first steps toward becoming an effective instrument for the democratization of society, and increasing openness," stated Leonid Kravchenko, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting. He spoke at the Sixth Congress of the USSR Union of Journalists, which is in its 2d day in Moscow.

Television has an absolute pitch for the truth, Kravchenko said. But how often in the past have our television "ears" been hard of hearing, and our television "eyes" failed to see everything sharply or simply suffered from color-blindness. The popular "Vremya" program is known its ostentation with the news, it was overburdened with high-flown reports about production successes, it showed machinery but not people.

The April Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee (1986), which set in motion the profound restructuring in all areas of the country's life, has led to decisive restructuring on television as well.

We have now begun, Kravchenko noted, to go over more boldly to the making of open live programs, which create a special atmosphere of lively and immediate contact. In a little over a year "live broadcasting" has increased by 13 times. In the "Problems, Search, Solutions" series of programs the majority of Soviet ministers have given a unique report to the people. There has been a very big response to these programs with tens of thousands of letters and thousands of telephone calls to the studio.

There has been a sharp change in the coverage of international events, and we are no longer afraid to argue openly with our ideological opponents. This openness [otkrytost] of argument is particularly characteristic of the television bridges, of which there have been 13 with the Americans alone. Television bridges with the socialist countries are being widely practiced. The first television discussions have been held with the Japanese, Swedes, and Swiss and similar programs with the British and the FRG public are being planned.

PRAVDA Summarizes Speeches

PM161051 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Justify the Party's Faith"]

[Excerpts] The Soviet press is becoming a powerful instrument for openness and the exercise of public control in the context of further development in socialist democracy. The authority of the press in our society is growing stronger and journalists are playing an increasingly responsible role. Representatives of the country's creative collectives are discussing ways in which to fully justify the faith of the party and the people at the Sixth USSR Union of Journalists Congress which continued work in Moscow on 16 March.

Urgent creative problems are being discussed -- how to make every item in the press and every television and radio broadcast more meaningful, profound, clear, and to the point. The congress participants are exchanging experience and professional methods and jointly seeking ways leading to a qualitatively new standard of work.

Many of the speeches have contained specific proposals aimed at increasing the effectiveness of work by journalistic organizations and stepping up the activity of their elected organs. The discussion is not only important to journalists. After all, their attention is focused on the socially important problems of the economy and politics, culture, science, and morality, all spheres of life, and all the various changes taking place.

The CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum showed quite clearly that the mass information media today play a most important role in the restructuring of our life, and the party has highly appraised the work of the central press, A.A. Belyayev, chief editor of SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, said. The time demands that everyone make a choice and demands action aimed at decisively rejecting everything preventing us from gaining a new quality of life. Far from everyone has realized that the aim of the restructuring process is to benefit them, and in this respect they must be helped immediately, have matters explained to them, and be inspired by party initiative.

The restructuring process is highly complex. Especially when we are talking about such a phenomenon as art and literature, which have also been affected by the stagnation of our ideas. The most powerful weapon in overcoming this stagnation is openness and only openness. The party, the speaker stressed, has placed great faith in journalists by instructing them to develop openness in our society. We are bound to justify this faith. [passage omitted]

L.A. Voznesenskiy, political observer with the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, talked about journalists' responsibility for restructuring and acceleration. Our task is to ensure that the party's ideas are conveyed to every individual, he said. What is more, these ideas must be put into practice. For this to happen we must probe to the heart of phenomena, be capable of socioeconomic analysis, and understand the trends and processes taking place in society. We must consolidate these positive changes by our words and actions, because if we ourselves do not grasp the restructuring process and demonstrate it we will not help this process at all.

It is only on the basis of economic change in society that the colossal political changes which have recently taken place can be consolidated. If this is to happen we must all learn a great deal, irrespective of the degree of knowledge and work experience we already possess to different extents. [passage omitted]

If we are to judge by our congress, A.S. Pyanov, chief editor of KROKODIL, observed, there is no such genre as satirical journalism in our country. It is a fact that more than 10 million copies of more than 20 political satire journals are published monthly in the union and autonomous republics. The aim and object of political satire in the restructuring period is clear and definite. Have the naive idealists and faint-hearted individuals for whom any restructuring is like a sharp knife really disappeared from our lives? Surely we still have spiritual and economic backwaters, where footwear is manufactured which no one can wear, television sets are produced which no one can watch, and newspaper copies are destroyed because they contain articles not to someone's liking? All this and a great deal more is the object of political satire and humor. The party, which rightly considers satire to be one of the most important instruments in the restructuring process, uses this to teach people to open their eyes. Underlining this idea, the speaker dwelt on the tasks now facing the country's masters of satire. [passage omitted]

IZVESTIYA Cites Elections

PM191223 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report under the headline: "Board Plenum Held"]

[Text] The first plenum of the USSR Journalists' Union Board was held 16 March. V.G. Afanasyev, chief editor of PRAVDA, was elected chairman of the union's board. I.A. Zubkov was elected first deputy chairman of the board. S.A. Losev, director general of TASS; A.N. Aksenov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting; I.D. Laptev, chief editor of IZVESTIYA; V.M. Falin, chairman of the APN Board; and M.F. Nenashev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade, were elected deputy chairman.

The board secretariat was also elected, and comprises:

N.A. Burym, board secretary;
R.M. Moseyev, board secretary;
N.N. Chetverikov, chairman of the All-Union Copyright Agency Board;

V.V. Chikin, chief editor of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA;
A.A. Baranov, chief editor of SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA;
G.N. Seleznev, chief editor of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA;
A.S. Potapov, chief editor of TRUD;
A.P. Kharlamov, chief editor of SELSKAYA ZHIZN;
M.A. Fedorov, chief editor of ZA RUBEZHOM;
I.M. Panov, chief editor of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA;
V.I. Fedotova, chief editor of the magazine SOVETSKAYA ZHENSHCHINA;
V.P. Zhidkov, chief editor of ZHURNALIST;
R.Ya. Zeynalov, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Journalists' Union Board;
E.A. Araksman-Manukyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Journalists' Union Board;
I.P. Makalovich, chairman of the Belorussian SSR Journalists' Union Board;
N.G. Cherkezishvili, chairman of the Georgian SSR Journalists' Union Board;
K.K. Duyseyev, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Journalists' Union Board;
T.I. Ishemkulov, chairman of the Kirghiz SSR Journalists' Union Board;
Ya.P. Britans, chairman of the Latvian SSR Journalists' Union Board;
A.K. Laurinchyukas, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Journalists' Union Board;
M.D. Yeremiya, chairman of the Moldavian SSR Journalists' Union Board;
G.N. Kalandarov, chairman of the Tajik SSR Journalists' Union Board;
M. Orusov, chairman of the Turkmen SSR Journalists' Union Board;
S.Sh. Kurbanov, chairman of the Uzbek SSR Journalists' Union Board;
N.A. Shibik, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Journalists' Union Board;
Kh.Kh. Toming, chairman of the Estonian SSR Journalists' Union Board;
G.V. Salova, secretary of the Vladimir Oblast Journalists' Organization Board;
M.N. Poltoranin, chairman of the Moscow City Journalists' Organization Board;
and A.K. Varsobin, chairman of the Leningrad Journalists' Organization Board.

The first session of the USSR Journalists' Union Central Auditing Commission was also held. V.I. Novikov, director of the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Publishing House, was elected its chairman.

DPA: 'Secret' Ballot Forced

LD171459 Hamburg DPA in German 1421 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Moscow (DPA) -- Unusual arguments broke out on Monday evening at the end of the Soviet journalists' congress in Moscow. According to eyewitnesses several participants unexpectedly criticized the official election list of the journalist unions' leadership, finally pushing through a secret ballot. On Tuesday the Soviet press made no mention of these incidents and only published heavily cut versions of the critical speeches.

Once the official list was put to the vote one editor suddenly complained that far too many people from the "apparatus" and too few practicing journalists were up for election. According to eyewitness accounts the leading functionaries became "visibly nervous", but finally agreed to modified elections. Thus names were taken off or added to the official list and ballot papers were cast into a ballot box. Western observers were excluded from the elections and television cameras switched off. [passage omitted]

Plevako Defends Election

LD192249 Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Commentary by Aleksandr Plevako, head of Radio Moscow's information service]

[Text] The Sixth Congress of the Soviet Journalists Union has been held here in Moscow. It was a major event extensively commented on by the mass media both in this country and abroad. The Voice of America, Radio Canada and Deutsche Welle -- the Voice of Germany -- have suddenly started playing around with one theme. They claim that the delegates to the congress had demanded and been granted the right to elect the union's leaders by secret ballot. This question, the stations said, was raised by delegates from the national daily IZVESTIYA who opposed the proposal of the congress's presidium for electing a new ballot the union's chairman, Afanasyev, was elected for another term.

We asked the chairman of the journalists organization of the Soviet State Committee for Radio and Television, head of Radio Moscow's information service, Aleksandr Plevako, who was present at the congress as a delegate, to comment on these claims. This is what he wrote:

May our listeners forgive me the word, but what's been reported by my colleagues at the VOA and other Western stations is a fake of the first water. There were 219 people on the list of candidates for a new executive, nominated by representatives of the delegations. Under the union's new rules, adopted just before the discussion of candidates began, the executive was to be elected by secret ballot. IZVESTIYA's delegate did make a proposal but on an entirely different matter. He suggested electing to the executive a dozen of his colleagues at the newspaper which the delegates failed to support, and that was only natural.

The chairman of the union was elected by the executive by a show of hands. He was elected unanimously and all those present burst into applause. I testify this as an eyewitness. So the VOA, Radio Canada, Deutsche Welle have turned everything upside down. It's very likely that their reports are evidence of the desire -- not an unusual one -- to discredit an important event in this country. Deutsche Welle, the Voice of Germany, described the journalists congress as a form of self-criticism and complaints about what has not been achieved, rather than a triumphant celebration of victories, which sounds impressive but shallow. There is no desire to report seriously what the Soviet journalists pondered over at their congress. Meanwhile, the congress showed the understanding of the enormous responsibility of the job being done by journalists and the mass media in general, which are an important and effective instrument to carry out renewal.

The congress was evidence of the understanding of what the people and other party expect of the journalists. There were heated debates on purely professional issues, like the personnel problem, the lagging behind of the mass media in technological terms, the lack of information, the reluctance of some officials to grant journalists information about certain issues, say space research. Some speakers pointed to material difficulties. The congress discussed the difficulties encountered by journalists writing on world affairs, for instance those caused by the fact that each article or program about communist parties in other countries or about a socialist country is seen as an expression of the official position. The congress searched for the best ways to carry out one of the journalists' main tasks -- the work for peace.

I must say that the decisions of the congress and the union's new rules adopted by it reflect the growing role of Soviet journalists in the nation's life and their enormous responsibility before the people. The president of the International Organization of Journalists, Kaarle Nordenstreng, addressed the congress in these words: The more sincerity there is in the discussion of your problems, the greater credibility your reports about your achievements will have in other countries, the more serious will be the world reaction to Soviet peace policy.

PRAVDA Publishes Resolution

PM181209 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 87 First Edition pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Resolution of Sixth USSR Journalists Union Congress"]

[Text] On behalf of the press, television, and radio broadcasting workers the Sixth Congress of the USSR Journalists Union states that Soviet journalists welcomed with an awareness of their lofty responsibility the party's call for revolutionary transformations in all spheres of society, for the development of openness, socialist democracy, criticism, and self-criticism, and for the truthful, unvarnished coverage of reality with its complexities and contradictions. Journalists' organizations and editorial collectives are prepared to do everything in their power to ensure that the mass information and propaganda media are the most active participants in restructuring and the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development.

The congress believes journalists have a lot to do to create a constructive, highly spiritual atmosphere of creativity and principledness in the editorial collectives. The USSR Journalists Union Board and the republican and kray and oblast organizations must become truly creative centers effectively influencing the activity of primary organizations and the education and growth of the professional skill of journalist cadres and the quality of their labor.

Having heard and discussed the report on the work of the USSR Journalists Union Congress and its tasks in the light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress delivered by Comrade V.G. Afanasyev, chairman of the board of the union, the congress decrees:

1. The activity of the USSR Journalists Union board over the period under review should be recognized as satisfactory.

2. The congress believes the most important duty of journalists' organizations and of each member of the USSR Journalists Union to be active participation in the uncompromising struggle for the fulfillment of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the Central Committee January (1987) Plenum, the restructuring of the life of Soviet society, and the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development. Attention should be focused on man and on the activity of the labor collectives where the destiny of production plans is decided and where Soviet people's best qualities are realized.

3. The congress emphasizes that restructuring in editorial collectives and the union's organizations, especially in the rayon and city echelon, is being implemented only slowly, frequently only formally, and with difficulties, and that the stereotypes elaborated under conditions of ostentation and fuss are still having an effect. [paragraph continues]

The duty of every primary journalist organization and editorial collective is to persistently overcome the inertia of the past and the stagnation in thinking and to actively seek and assert in their work innovatory approaches according with the revolutionary spirit of the time. Phrase-mongering, bragging, the mania for initiatives, and window-dressing are particularly intolerable. We must erect a firm barrier against slipshod journalism, struggle against lack of demandingness and irresponsiblity, and resolutely improve the political and professional criteria for the quality of published items.

The enhancement of the role of the mass information and propaganda media in the life of society is largely determined by the depth of the changes in thinking, by the level of activeness, creative initiative, and professional skill of journalists.

4. The USSR Journalists Union organizations, must promote the concentration of journalists' efforts on decisive salients of the development of the Soviet economy, social life, socialist democratization, openness, communist education, and the consolidation of discipline and responsibility. It is important to make a profound study of the essence of restructuring and the shaping of people's new thinking and awareness, to thoroughly study and support the shoots of what is new, and to master the art of writing competently and persuasively about good experience.

At the same time we must resolutely and boldly oppose everything delaying the change taking place in society -- bureaucracy and formalism, the suppression of criticism, and antisocial phenomena like drunkenness, bribery, speculation, parasitism, servility, and so forth.

5. The congress instructs the USSR Journalists Union board together with the appropriate organizations to elaborate a system for the constant training of journalists and the improvement of their skill. Specific measures must be taken to improve the quality and effectiveness of creative competitions and the work of seminars, schools and universities of journalistic skill and of scientific and practical conferences and emergency meetings. The regular discussion of the professional standard and social significance of publications in the periodical press and of television broadcasts with the subsequent notification of the editorial offices must be introduced into the practice of creative associations and sections. It is important to ensure a principled approach toward the certification of journalist cadres and the fulfillment of the recommendations of certification commissions.

The union board and the journalists organizations must perform daily work to educate journalists in a spirit of lofty ideals, communist morality, Soviet patriotism, friendship and cooperation among peoples, responsibility for the end results of their work, and a party attitude toward criticism.

The USSR Journalists Union board must engage persistently in questions of the consolidation of the material and technical base of the mass information and propaganda media and the improvement of editorial workers' working and daily living conditions.

6. One of the most important tasks of the USSR Journalists Union and its organizations must be considered to be all-around assistance, in the spirit of Lenin's traditions, for the further development of the movement of correspondents drawn from members of the public (obshchestvennyye korrespondenty) and of democratic principles in the activity of editorial offices and leading production workers and innovators and representatives of the creative intelligentsia, young people, and women must be enlisted more actively to this work.

The forms of training of the authors aktiv must be improved and aid must be rendered in this matter to the editorial offices and creative associations of correspondents drawn from members of the public.

It has been recommended that the USSR Journalists Union, in conjunction with the PRAVDA editorial office, prepare and convene an all-union congress of correspondents drawn from members of the public. The holding of republican, kray, and oblast congresses, conferences, and rallies of these correspondents must be made more regular.

7. The union board must elaborate measures to intensify creative cooperation with the socialist countries' journalists unions, to ensure the mutual exchange of experience, and to expand contacts between the editorial offices of newspapers of large industrial enterprises and twinned cities and oblasts. Ties must be developed on a regular basis with the journalists organizations of the nonaligned states and they must be given assistance in improving journalists' qualifications in the struggle for peace, the elimination of nuclear weapons on earth and the prevention of their transfer into space, and in the reasoned exposure of the reactionary essence of imperialism.

Soviet journalists must militantly and resolutely defend the communist world outlook, be bolder in conducting an open dialogue and all-around criticism of bourgeois ideology, expose the lies about socialism, the socialist way of life, and the Soviet Union's foreign policy, and act vigorously on the question of human rights.

8. The congress urges the journalists organizations and all journalists to take the most active part in preparing for a notable event in the history of the Communist Party and Soviet people -- the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. It is important to show comprehensively the impressive transformations accomplished in seven decades in socioeconomic and cultural building and the advantages of the socialist path of development.

9. The congress instructs the USSR Journalists Union board secretariat to examine within a month the letters, complaints, and proposals which the congress has received and to give specific replies.

Fedorov on West's Reaction

LD191147 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0348 GMT 19 Mar 87

[From the "Panorama" program, presented by Petr Fedorov, with commentator Igor Charikov]

[Text] [Fedorov] The Sixth Congress of the USSR Union of Journalists which was held in Moscow, has evoked a big response abroad. The major papers in the United States, Britain, the FRG, France and other countries, and radio and television, continue to comment on speeches by congress delegates and on the general discussion. In our studio is commentator Igor Charikov, who will continue this theme.

[Charikov] The interest abroad in the Soviet journalists' congress is quite understandable, primarily because the West is following closely the process of restructuring taking place in our country, and also because our mass media plays a most important role in the process itself, in active social renewal. What has the West shown most interest concerning what was said and discussed at the congress in the context of the events taking place in our country?

The general tone of the material would seem well disposed, or at least to have claims to objectivity. Western journalists themselves welcome the restructuring and openness, although not unreservedly. How much irony and doubts and pessimism there is in these outwardly positive reports and reckonings. The readers, listeners and viewers are thus offered a classic dish -- a jar of honey, but with a big spoonful of tar. These journalists make the reservation that openness is supposedly the prerogative of a bourgeois society, while the economic experiments being conducted in the context of restructuring are to gain experience of the capitalist economy. You will agree that having praised everything that is presently taking place in the Soviet Union, Western observers at the same time impose their own negative interpretation.

[Fedorov] In other words, the very idea of the possibility of such things as openness, active social renewal and restructuring in a socialist society is discounted.

[Charikov] Yes, quite so. Along the way they once again slander the Soviet mass media. They talk about its supposedly limited opportunities, about a limit to frankness, about a lack of creative competitiveness and so on. In brief, to sum up, one could say that they start with a toast to our health, and end up saying rest in peace.

[Fedorov] Igor Pavlovich. In the final analysis, I think that for the Western press, the journalists' congress was just an excuse to slander socialism once again as a social system, to slander its potential capabilities and its attractiveness.

[Charikov] I would make this idea more specific -- it was an excuse for attacks on socialism, camouflaged behind a kindly attitude, on the eve of a most important historic event, the 70th anniversary of Soviet power, of the 1917 October revolution.

[Fedorov] Thank you.

IZVESTIYA REVIEWS JAN-FEB INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE

PM190853 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 1

[V. Romanyuk "Economic Review": "Who Is Keeping Their Word, and How"]

[Text] It is mid-March. Rain is already falling in some parts of the country's vast expanses, while elsewhere there are still frosts. But the national economic complex is as one. The season is the same for everyone in terms of the 5-year plan calendar: The first quarter of 1987 is drawing to a close. It is a year of great expectations, the restructuring of the economic mechanism, the introduction of state acceptance, and the assimilation of the principles of self-financing and complete financial autonomy. How are we approaching this interim finishing line? After the serious disruption permitted in January, this question is today disturbing and alarming many people. Will it be possible to make up for lost time and get into the rhythm of the annual plan?

Let us immediately say that the February rates were notably higher than the January rates. In principle February was spent making up the January lag, and to a certain extent this has been successful. It is disappointing that, having overfulfilled the plan for February in terms of the group of most important items, our results over the 2 months as a whole have been less than modest. It had been planned to increase output volume by 3.6 percent in comparison with last year's January-February plan, but in fact the plan level for the first 2 months of last year was exceeded by 2.9 percent. Nor was the plan fulfilled in terms of labor productivity. Almost one in every four enterprises failed to cope with its contractual commitments. One other circumstance cannot fail to cause concern: After the recent rush work at the end of February there has again been a slump in the first 10 days of March -- our ingrained patchy performance is making itself felt.

We have collectives which keep tight hold of their own destiny. The USSR Central Statistical Administration reports that the targets for the extraction of the main types of fuel and the production of electricity and heat energy have been successfully fulfilled on the whole. Moreover, some 2.5 million metric tons of coal, 500,000 metric tons of oil including gas condensate, and 2.1 billion cubic meters of gas have been extracted over and above the plan.

The collective at "Bogatyr" -- the world's largest open-cut mine -- is currently doing excellent work at Ekibastuz. All the technological complexes at this open-cut mine are working at full capacity, smoothly, and without any disruption, and powerful modern equipment -- rotary excavators with a productivity of 2,000-5,000 metric tons of coal an hour -- have been introduced there. Hence the stable results: Since the start of the year "Bogatyr" has produced more than 200,000 metric tons of coal over and above the target figure. But smooth coal production has not yet been achieved in all coal fields. The coal has been mined, but there have been disruptions in the deliveries of it to customers, which creates considerable difficulties.

Success -- more accurately, solid success -- goes to those who rely on well-conceived strategy, do not drown their work in endless wrangling about restructuring or strident campaigns about individual records, but ensure smooth working every day and every hour. Those collectives had the situation entirely under control even during the January frosts, and did not put a foot wrong in February either. [paragraph continues]

We would cite all the mineral fertilizer production sector, enterprises in the chemical and timber conplex, and the construction industry. For instance, 62,000 metric tons of cement and large amounts of asbestos, window glass, and other building materials were produced over and above the 2-month plan.

But on the whole we would repeat that January and February failed to show the kind of production growth targeted by the plan figures and which we had a right to expect. Yes, this winter's severe frosts worsened an unfavorable situation. Serious questions have been posed by the state acceptance system, which has in a number of cases demanded that technological documentation be reworked. This is an important and necessary task. Even the statistics on which I base my discussion of this problem firmly assert that plan fulfillment in terms of quantity should in no way be to the detriment of quality, and any kind of relaxation whatsoever in the state acceptance system is unacceptable, all the more so since the main reasons for the disruption lie elsewhere. First and foremost is the fact that with the mass switch to new economic management methods certain areas were poorly prepared for work under conditions of increased demands toward the activity of enterprises and associations. The power of inertia and slowdown [tormozheniye] and the passivity of those who are used to doing everything haphazardly have not been entirely overcome during the restructuring.

Certain economic managers aim their entire strategy somewhere between sluggishness at the beginning and feverish activity at the end, in an attempt to cover up their own inefficiency with "heroic" efforts at the end of a month of quarter. The machine building complex is an example of that. Enterprises in this complex fulfilled their January-February delivery commitments by only 97 percent. The owed customers various products worth R474 million, including AC motors, grain harvesting combines, excavators, and spinning machines. These are all extremely important products. But particularly alarming is the lag in component sectors -- a lag which to a considerable extent determines the rhythm of the national economic complex as a whole. Those are the people who really need to make an extra effort at work!

For example, efforts by metallurgical workers in February was somewhat better. They fulfilled the plan. But this was not enough to overcome the lag. They are still behind in the production of steel, finished rolled ferrous metals, and steel pipes. The main thing is that the lag in production of metal products that are in short supply -- electric steel and high-impact drilling pipes -- continues.

But probably the most keenly felt case of undermining was that of the associated plants of the Ministry of Automotive Industry, which failed to deliver 15 million bearings of diverse types in January-February! Understandably, this immediately entailed stoppages in the production of electric motors and then of machine tools and machinery which new building projects and shops undergoing modernization waited for in vain.

This also affected the sphere fo the production of consumer appliances. Store shelves at the moment are by no means dazzling. There is a lag in production of the most progressive types of consumer equipment -- color TV's, two- and three-compartment refrigerators, superior-quality vacuum cleaners, and food processors [motobloky]. The Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances produced fewer freezers and washing machines than planned.

We are used to repeating that the plan is the law of production. Both the labor collective itself and higher authorities parrticipate in drawing it up. [paragraph continues]

Plan figures do not come out of thin air. That is why each case of disruption must be seen as a violation of the law and cannot go unpunished. There are still 2 weeks to go before the end of the quarter. It is necessary to make an extra effort at work and bring collectives' labor and creative potential into play. Only we must not relax or hope for subsequent amendments. Discipline, efficiency, and a smooth working rhythm are the specific indicators of restructuring today. Not in words but in deeds. It is not assurances from lofty rostrums that determine our acceleration but everyday work -- in shops, in teams, and at all of our workplaces.

FIRST COOPERATIVE CAFE OPENS IN MOSCOW 12 MAR

LD121839 Moscow TASS in English 1712 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikita Demidov reports:

Moscow's first cooperative cafe opened today.

Its director Andrey Fedorov said being the pioneer was difficult but it also had its advantages.

He explained that the cafe's premises had been renovated and refurbished with government money and by a government building organization and that the cooperative would have to return the money by installments within the next five years without having to pay any interest.

"We only have to pay a low interest on the money borrowed to buy the first food to get us started and shall pay back the loan within a year," Fedorov said.

He and his two friends decided to open a cooperative cafe a year ago. Obtaining a permit, securing all other legal documents and selecting the place for the cafe did not take much time and two months later the chosen vacant and spacious apartment began to be overhauled to become a cafe.

The cooperative members are people with much experience in public catering. Fedorov, for instance, has been in this line of work for 23 years.

The first diners said they found the food delicious. The prices are on a par with those at state restaurants.

The new cafe will operate on a pay-your-own-way basis and if it fails to draw enough customers, it will go broke.

The cooperative will buy the food products on the market and at collective and state farms.

Its profit rate at present is 16.7 percent but can reach 30 percent. The personnel's wages will be dependent on it and will amount for the time being to an average of 355 roubles, as compared with the average monthly pay in the USSR of 190 roubles.

'AD HOC' INVESTIGATION REVEALS RAILWAY SHORTFALL

LD162114 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] An ad hoc investigation [operativnyy razbor] conducted at the USSR Ministry of Railways through an telephone hookup dealt with the work of railway transport in the first half of March. Our correspondent, Vladimir Mikhaylenko, gives an account of this:

[Mikhaylenko] The state of affairs on the country's railways at the moment suits neither the railwaymen nor their partners. One would think that the winter had been equally difficult for both -- and both far and wide have endured much from it. However, currently circumstances are taking shape in such a way that railwaymen must answer for everything. The fact that in the beginning of the year many industrial enterprises turned away wagons, displaying a criminal lack of concern, and disrupted the freight handling plan constantly, is being forgotten with time, but to make up for it the overall result of this thoughtless work is coming to the fore weightily. To date the railways have a shortfall in the delivery of various national economy freight to consumers of 42.5 million tonnes, and this cannot but have an effect on the indices of the many industries.

The analysis of the work of railway transport presented today by Comrade Konarev, minister of railways, was tough in essence and, I think, impartial in many respects in its thoroughness. For 10 million tonnes of the 42 million mentioned were lost in the first half of March, that is to say in the very period when railwaymen should, one would think, have been doing everything possible to catch up with the winter's debt. Now, to compensate for the losses, they have to get back 4 days in time and for this, the minister stressed, they have to speed up unloading to the maximum and stamp out underloading of wagons everywhere. But this task can only be resolved in both cases with the interest and help of the clientele. Unfortunately the facts do not appear favorable. Over the past 24 hours alone at Azovstal, "Iiyich" works, the Yenakiyevo metallurgical and other metallurgical enterprises, served by the Donetsk railways, up to 1,200 wagons have been standing idle taking twice as long to unload. Donbass miners did not receive approximately the same number loaded with coal. Addressing those present at the investigation, addressing all those working in the industry the minister of railways said:

[Begin Konarev recording] One can say without any exaggeration that the fate of 1987 and perhaps even the 5-year plan depends on how we rectify the situation. What are 4 days -- everyone understands this for sure. You remember how in February, when we were trying and taking all measures to fulfill the plan, we stressed that we were a few hours short, we were 6 hours behind in February. What is the cost of every hour of our work for the country's economy -- and this is 4 days. The demands on us are simple: To fully satisfy the national economy's transport needs, because, through the nationwide movement of competition for a fitting run-up to the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution, the plan will be over-fulfilled and demands will be placed on us to supply output in the volumes that are necessary for the enterprises and industries of the national economy. This will definitely be the case. Therefore, the party Central Committee and the government are making the clear and simple demand on us that we embark upon normal work without delay, make up the underloading, and fulfill and overfulfill the current year's plan unconditionally. No one will forgive us if we do not do this. [end recording]

KORYAQIN DETAILS DONBASS ANTIFLOOD MEASURES

PM191439 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 19 Mar 87 p 1

[Interview with Ye. Koryagin, deputy chairman of Donetsk Oblispolkom, by own correspondent G. Dorofeyev under the rubric "Today's Interview": "Before the Floods" -- date of interview not given; first paragraph is SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSRIYA introduction]

[Text] Donetsk -- It was a hard winter in the Donbass this year. Dozens of cyclones passed over the steppe, covering it with a thick layer of snow. After the difficult winter a no less difficult and alarming spring has arrived. The first, as yet small, streams of water have appeared, but soon they will merge into mighty torrents which will pour down into the lowlands, threatening cities and villages. How can disaster be averted? This is what Ye. Koryagin, deputy chairman of Donetsk Oblispolkom, told me.

We have drawn up estimates for all eventualities. Naturally, we are preparing for the worst possible situation. A water level several times higher than usual.

Judging by the weathermen's forecasts, the thaw on the rivers is expected toward the end of the second 10-day period and the beginning of the third 10-day period of March. This will be the most difficult time. The water level will rise from 2.6 to 7.3 meters. The area flooded by the spring high water may extend over 740 square kilometers. This zone is inhabited by some 200,000 people; 377 population centers, 224 industrial and municipal service installations, hundreds of kilometers of roads, dozens of kilomters of railroads, and 342 bridges are located in this area.

Major Kramatorsk enterprises such as the metallurgical plant named for Kuybyshev, the cement and shale combine, and the Starokramatorskiy Ordzhonikidze machine building plant may be in the flood zones. In Slavyansk and Konstantinovka the floodwaters will threaten the "Khimprom", "Slavbtyazhmash", "Avtosteklo", and the "Frunze Metallurgical Plant" associations.

An alarming situation is developing in the oblast, but we started preparing for it some time ago. Back in January it was clear what would be in store for us in the spring. Because of this the oblispolkom drew up and approved a plan for handling the spring floods. During the second half of February a rehearsal was carried out in the potential flood zone -- flood-control systems were tested.

What do we have at our disposal? Some 60,000 people are organized in special teams, more than 3,000 vehicles and hundreds of different kinds of water craft are ready for use. The assistance of military units will also be enlisted. Some 500 observation posts are watching over the status of rivers and reservoirs; a round-the-clock watch has already been organized for 40 of them. The routes of surveillance flights by Mi-2 helicopters and an AN-2 aircraft have been defined. It is planned to use explosives to break up obstructions formed by the buildup of ice. Measures have been adopted to prevent the flooding of pumping stations, communications cables, and electricity substations.

Officials responsible for the evacuation of population centers have been appointed. Every household, every family knows where to go if danger threatens. Food stocks for the whole period of high water have been laid in locally. The evacuation of material assets from bases and storehouses is drawing to a close and a program for the dismantling of equipment at enterprises threatened with flooding has been drawn up.

So far winter has not released its grip -- the March sun may be quite warm, but during the night temperatures drop to minus 10 degrees Centigrade. Nonetheless, the oblast is preparing to meet the spring floods fully armed.

RSFSR POULTRY ASSOCIATION'S WORK CRITICIZED

LD191400 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] An RSFSR State Agro-Industrial Committee Collegium session held today subjected the work of the Ptitseprom poultry association to sharp criticism. Forty of its farms, particularly those in northern Caucasus, are unprofitable. Production from other regions has to be shipped to Kabardino-Balkariya, Checheno-Ingushetiya and to Amur, Gorkiy and some other oblasts, at a time when the capacities of local factory farms are only half used. Even in such a rich kray as Krasnodarsk, factory farm production capacities are only 70 percent. Feed is used with little efficiency, and the association management complains of shortages, although Ptitseprom has available a large potential for the production of its own feed. It has at its disposal nearly 1 billion Hectares of arable land and large quantities of organic fertilizers, yet Ptitseprom farms get very low grain harvests: For example, the Amur, Vladimir and Penza trusts gather only 11 quintals of grain per hectare. Intensive technologies are not being introduced in crop production. Other shortcomings were cited. Their cause lies in the fact that the management of the Ptitseprom All-Russian Association is failing to work toward restructuring.

A sharp dissonance at the collegium was produced by the speech of Viktor Ivanovich Postnikov, director general of the Stavropolye Broiler Association. The collective led by him has been working on the principle of financial autonomy since 1983. In 4 years the production of poultry has increased by nearly 7000 tonnes. The use of production capacities has improved significantly. Feed consumption has fallen by 5 percent. Labor productivity has grown by almost 12 percent, while the average wage by 9.5 percent.

The collegium adopted a decision to organize the transfer to financial autonomy of other Ptitseprom associations and trusts.

RADUGA COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE LAUNCHED 19 MAR

LD200801 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0745 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 20 Mar (TASS) -- Another Raduga communications satellite with onboard retransmitting apparatus intended to provide telephone-telegraph-radio communications and the transmission of television programs was launched in the USSR yesterday. The apparatus on the satellite is working normally.

MIR COSMONAUTS CONTINUE STUDIES, EXPERIMENTS

LD192232 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin's 6th week of duties in space is coming to a close. Today's flight program for the manned Mir complex includes medical research and work involving the Progress-28 cargo craft as well as a geophysical and technical experiments. Visual observations and manual photography of certain volcanically active areas of the Earth are planned as part of the environment study program.

The Rezonans experiment, also planned for today, has the task of defining the dynamic characteristics of a complex space system, comprising two transport craft and an orbital station.

FURTHER DETAILS ON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SESSION

PM181553 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "The Horizons of Renewal. General Meeting of the Academy of Sciences"]

[Text] The Academy of Sciences, all its scientific institutions, and all Soviet scientific personnel must make every effort to step up their involvement in restructuring, in the revolutionary transformations in the country, and in improving the organizational activity of the Academy of Sciences itself. That was a brief resume of the 3-day session of the Academy of Sciences annual general meeting, which ended on 12 March in Moscow.

The last day of the general meeting was devoted to organizational aspects of the Academy's activity. There were discussions of the new scientific research institute regulations and the statute on the Academy's main scientific and scientific organization center.

The Academy Presidium has implemented some major organizational measures of late. At the end of last year a resolution was adopted on increasing the role of the branches and improving the management of the Academy's scientific institutions. The branches' new role is to ensure a high standard of fundamental research, to independently tackle long-term problems of scientific, economic, social, and technical development, to actively promote the practical implementation of scientific results, and to coordinate research on the whole range of problems of the academic, VUZ, and industrial sectors of science. The increase in the role and responsibility of branches will contribute to the fundamental improvement of the scientific performance of institutes as the chief scientific component.

One important area of work on restructuring the Academy's activity is the improvement of its cadre policy. It was stressed at the conference that the main approach here is to ensure the more intensive overhaul of scientific institutions' cadres and a harmonious combination of energy, knowledge, and experience. With this in mind, the Academy Presidium elaborated measures aimed at reducing the average age of leading personnel of scientific institutions while making maximum use of their intellectual potential.

In order to bring a wider range of talented young people into the Academy's scientific institutions, it was deemed expedient for young specialists, VUZ graduates and people who have been research students, to join academic institutes as scientific or scientific-technical personnel when posts become available in the course of a year.

The Academy general meeting paid a great deal of attention to questions pertaining to strengthening science in such important regions as the Far East and the Urals. A resolution was adopted on setting up Far East and Urals branches of the USSR Academy of Sciences on the basis of the existing scientific centers. This is dictated by the need to further develop fundamental and applied research, improve its effectiveness, and accelerate scientific and technical progress in those regions. Academician V.I. Ilichev was elected chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Far East Branch Presidium, and Academician G.A. Mesyats was elected chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Urals Branch Presidium.

There followed the election of the academic secretary of the USSR Academy of Sciences Economic Branch. Academician A.G. Aganbegyan was elected.

At the evening session the meeting participants paid tribute to the winners of the Academy's chief award -- the M.V. Lomonosov Gold Medal -- and to those responsible for work which has been awarded gold medals and prizes named for other outstanding scientists.

M.V. Lomonosov Gold Medals were presented to the Soviet ophthalmologist S.N. Fedorov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, and to the well-known Czechoslovak biochemist J. Riman, chairman of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In accordance with tradition, the prize winners delivered scientific reports.

MINSTANKOPROM SCORED FOR 'OBSTRUCTING INNOVATION'

OW200151 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0600 GMT on 18 March carries the 75-minute "Science and Life" program entitled "Innovators and Conservatives".

The program is presented by journalist B.V. Goldayev, who begins by saying that the world shortage of tungsten has made the manufacture of useable tungsten-free steel a matter of the utmost priority. A number of Soviet research institutes, including Metallurgical institutes in Azerbaijan, seem to have solved the problem of producing a very cheap tungsten-free steel. However, the Soviet Ministry of Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry (Minstankoprom) took steps to inhibit the wide use of tungsten-free steel in industrial enterprises. This was done under the pretext that, for one reason or another, the new steel is inferior to conventional steel now in use.

Goldayev interviews director of Kristall Special Design Technological Bureau under the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, N.M. Suleymanov, on reason for the lack of enthusiasm.

Suleymanov says that there are some branches of the metallurgical industry quite candid in admitting that they are more interested in the manufacture of expensive steel because this affects their turnover. He goes on to say that, after the decision to test the tungsten-free steel under laboratory conditions was made, in several instances the results were falsified. Fortunately, tests conducted at industrial enterprises and tools made from tungsten-free steel, performed well under industrial conditions. Despite encouraging results, tungsten-free steel is still being ignored by the Ministry, and very few enterprises are making use of it. To illustrate his point, Suleymanov says that the Kamaz Production Association has made 50,000 tools from this new steel and the results have been extremely good.

Goldayev goes on to say that the Minstankoprom charged him with a subjective approach to the problem and offered to hold a public roundtable discussion. The panel would consist of representatives of various industries, academics, and members of the Temporary Scientific and Technical Commission, which was originally entrusted with the study of this new material.

Before the start of the round-table discussion, participants are shown an interview with G.I. Iaplanov, director of the Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Special Steel, who says that the demand for tungsten-free steel has been very slow. I.L. Polotskiy, head of the Technical Section of the Minstankoprom agrees that the demand has been slow. Academician T.N. Loladze, of the Georgian Academy of Sciences Applied Mechanics and Control Processes Department, says that statistical data lends credence to scientific claims. Suleymanov agrees, but adds that the tests conducted are of dubious value as the test samples were far too small. Ch G. Beyramov, deputy director of science at the Kristall, supports Suleymanov's statement and says that the methods for testing tools made from tungsten-free metal are suspect. Loladze, a member of the Temporary Scientific and Technical Commission, speaks in defense of the time taken by the commission by saying that the paucity of tungsten-free steel in the early part of the tests made for slow testing. Now that the supply has increased substantially, tools made from the new steel will be tested in various industries to determine its optimum use.

Goldayev says that, this being the case, there are reasons for optimism. Loladze agrees. Goldayev then asks why obstacles are placed in the way of getting to the truth. The widest application of the new steel to date has been conducted at the Kamaz Production Association. Video cuts to an interview with G.D. Kislitsyn, deputy technical director of the Kamaz, who confirms that tests conducted at the workshop levels have shown that the use of tools manufactured from tungsten-free steel is viable. There are some indications however, that the use of this new steel may be limited to some areas of production only. However, these limitations are, as yet, not determined. Kilitsyn ends the interview with a statement that, despite promising results, various branches of the industry, which should have displayed a keen interest, in fact had shown no interest whatsoever.

Video cuts back to the round-table discussion with Goldayev saying that, since taping this interview, reports received indicate that the Kamaz Production Association has begun reporting faults in a large percentage of tools made from the new steel. Concerned, Goldayev offered to return to find out what had gone wrong, but was discouraged from doing so. He went, nevertheless, but was prevented from meeting with the management. Video shows Goldayev standing in front of the Production Association saying: "We are standing next to the Kamaz Production Association because the management has prevented our Central Television group from entering the workshops where instruments made from the new steel are being used.

"During my many years as a journalist and many years experience with Central Television, this is the first time this has happend to me. This is the first time I have been prevented from speaking with the working class, prevented from speaking with the specialists and the technicians who, for a number of years, have been working on the introduction of the new steel and in the manufacture of instruments from this steel. Perhaps something new is beginning specifically at the Kamaz. At a time when the most acute problems are subject to openness, when the Central Committee of the party demands public airing of all problems, they are putting forward a new initiative by simply refusing access to journalists."

Goldayev interviews a number of Baku workers visiting the Kamaz Production Association, who say that they saw no evidence during their visit to indicate that tools made from this steel is in any way inferior. Video cuts back to the round-table discussion.

M.L. Bernsteyn, doctor of technical sciences, says that there are many instances when the use of high quality, quick-cutting steel is simply counterproductive. Therefore, tungsten-free steel can be profitably used in these areas.

A.B. Zharinov, head of the Kommunar Plant Machine-Building Bureau, says that the matter of determining the most rational use of tungsten-free steel should be left to the user. He says: "We should all be interested in the introduction of different materials which would economize on strategic raw materials."

Various merits of conventional and new steel are then discussed. Zharinov enters the conversation by saying that the workers should be the ones to determine the various merits of the steel, and also that it is they who could best determine the optimum use of this steel under various conditions, processes, and uses. A theoretical discussion on the various merits of steel is not profitable. It is the final results that count.

M.A. Shtremel, doctor of technical sciences, says that the problem may be divided into three parts: economic, organizational, and technical. Up until now, the discussion has been centered on the technical aspects. He says: "The state is interested in tungsten-free steel. Let us find out who else is interested. Let us assume that, today, tungsten-free steel is produced which is in no way inferior to steel containing tungsten. Let us assume that the metallurgical plant has mastered it. This steel is approximately one-third the price. Therefore, the turnover of the enterprise will decrease by two-thirds. Labor productivity will be reduced to a third; stimulation funds will disappear. The plant will go broke. I understand the director of the plant who, at my request and out of respect for science, will produce one or two small smelting batches. But, he cannot allow the plant to go broke. The instrument-makers are faced with the same problem. The instruments will be half the present cost. Where is the counter-expenditure mechanism [protivozatratnyy mekhanizm]? it does not exist. If the whole industry suffers 50 percent drop in productivity, and turnover, who will compensate the industry for this? This question has not been resolved."

Goldayev states that the Kamaz Production Association has now abandoned all further experiments, despite the initial successes and a previous decision to increase the utilization of tungsten-free steel.

Video cuts to the Azerbaijan Electrical Machine Plant. In an interview with the deputy chief engineer of the plant, F.N. Ismailov, he speaks about the excellent results in some areas in tungsten-free steel utilization. After interviewing a number of specialists at the plant, video cuts back to the round-table discussion.

A. Ya. Lerner, head of the Baku Workers' Plant production section says: In front of me is a document. The commission worked for 3 years. It has now completed its work, and the final results are now due. In essence, this is the idea of this meeting. But, in front of me is a document stating something else. In a 3-week period, a Western firm tested 20 (?samples) and demanded, or asked to be supplied with, 500 metric tons per annum of this steel developed in Baku. Within a 3-week period, while we have been speaking in terms of 3 years! With this time-frame, how can we drag our feet? After a mere 3 weeks, here is a letter with a request for 500 metric tons of this steel annually.

Loladze ends the discussion by putting forward a number of proposals for the utilization of the new steel in suitable areas.

Goldayev ends the program by saying that, in fact, there is little cause for optimism. The commission took a long time to reach any conclusions, and these were less than encouraging. Evidence exists that some of the experiments were falsified. Positive indications in support of the tungsten-free steel were suppressed. Despite the setbacks, experiments into the use of tungsten-free steel in Baku continue. It seems that the cheapness of the material is still the main stumbling block.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS MINISTRY AKTIV MEETING

PM191549 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 87 First Edition p 2

[Correspondent Colonel B. Pokholenchuk report: "Restructuring Is Everyone's Cause. Meeting of the USSR Defense Ministry Party Aktiv"]

[Text] As restructuring progresses we must see clearly and precisely that it requires tremendous efforts from each of us. And that we are just at the beginning of a complex and difficult path. The implementation of the plan is only just beginning. Difficult and very important work is under way to determine, in accordance with the general political line, the specific approaches, paths, and practical actions of each element of our social organism and of each collective.

Self-criticism, intolerance of shortcomings, and the desire for improvement are increasingly establishing themselves in the activity of commanders, political organs, and party organizations.

That was the main theme of the USSR Defense Ministry party aktiv meeting which discussed the results of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and the tasks for party organizations resulting from its decisions.

Not everything in life is easy or, to be more precise, there is much that is difficult. Including the following points: Within what framework and in what forms does restructuring apply to military cadres, given that they operate in special conditions?

Delivering a report to the party aktiv meeting, Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, answered that question in these terms:

The CPSU Central Committee January Plenum's decisions are all-embracing. They affect all aspects of our country's life and apply fully to the Armed Forces. At the present stage their fulfillment must be the basis of Soviet military cadres' entire practical activity.

The USSR Defense Minister dwelt on a number of most important points previously raised by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at meetings of leading military cadres in Minsk and stressed that the implementation and deepening of restructuring should lead us gradually to a new standard of Army and Navy combat readiness. This is especially relevant because the aggressive tendencies in the policy of the United States and the other NATO countries persisting and there is an evident striving to change the military-strategic parity of forces in their own favor and force the USSR to submit to their diktat.

The report went on to analyze the fundamental problems of Armed Forces' training and the improvement of the activity of cadres, political organs, and party organizations of the central apparatus in the light of the party's present-day demands.

Speakers in the debates on the report were Colonel General S. Dikov, Colonel General V. Rodin, Colonel General of Aviation V. Pankin, Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Kurkotkin, Colonel G. Kochurov, Marshal of Engineering Troops N. Shestopalov, Vice Admiral F. Novoselov, Army General I. Tretyak, Colonel V. Kharlamov, and Army General A. Lizichev.

The report and speeches stressed that the ability to work in the spirit of the lesson of truth is of fundamental significance today. Unless the shortcomings, omissions, and distortions are understood and admitted there can be no progress. And there is much which must be strictly analyzed. In the past there was often a discrepancy between word and deed. Indifference and complacency became widespread. Ostentation came to the fore in combat training while the main essence of training -- learning what must be done in real battle -- began to be pushed into the background. There were quite a few instances of oversimplification and lax organization of combat training in the Air Force and Air Defense Forces. Important planned naval events were disrupted.

Organizational work is improving too slowly. An extensive and resolute campaign has still not been launched against red tape and elements of formalism within the central apparatus. The amount of paperwork has increased noticeably in recent years. This torrent of paper absorbs much of the apparatus' energies while at the same time creating great problems in the work of subordinate management organs. Nor is the stream of commissions subsiding. There is an urgent need to regulate the various kinds of checks and inspections. It is necessary to vigorously improve the work style and methods of leadership and in this respect the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate still have much work to do, the meeting noted.

The tenacity of stagnant phenomena is due to the fact that a whole generation of cadres has been raised on a diminished sense of exactingness. We had too much faith in the strength of administrative methods, speakers at the meeting said, and did not thoroughly investigate the intrinsic reasons for the negative processes that have been taking place. Even now many leaders are trying to resolve new tasks by old methods. Not everyone understands the main point -- that restructuring applies not to individual questions but to all spheres of activity, that it requires the rejection of old thinking and the elaboration of a new and more responsible and exacting approach to work, and that everyone, taken together and individually, must work more. Today no one can say that he has undergone restructuring. The main efforts are still to be made and this must be treated with the utmost responsibility.

It is necessary to show far greater foresight in the elaboration of strategic problems, to rely on a sound scientific basis when resolving long-term questions of the Armed Forces' development, to improve the activity of scientific research institutes, and to increase the integration of science and combat training. A firm course has been set to irrevocably eliminate oversimplification and connivance and to eradicate formalism in combat training.

One important task is to increase the central apparatus' influence on the maintenance of organization and order among the troops and to strengthen military discipline. We must resolutely prevent deviations and distortions in these matters, speakers stressed. It is necessary to highlight key areas of action to radically improve discipline. Special attention must be paid to eradicating nonregulation relations and eliminating negative phenomena in the formation and establishment of military collectives. Each main and central directorate must determine its place and active role in this.

The social area is most closely connected with problems of organization, strict regulation order, discipline, and the effectiveness of combat training. Speakers cited the January plenum's conclusion that all leading cadres, from top to bottom, bear the responsibility for pursuing an active social policy and that the ability to resolve social questions is one of the main criteria of their professional and political maturity. Some people do not meet these criteria properly. Some military cadres have shown a lack of attention to social questions and an intolerable disregard for the urgent needs and requirements of subordinates.

The only possible attitude on this matter now is that negligence in the organization of military servicemen's everyday lives and catering, medical services, and material provision is unpardonable.

The failure to fulfill plans for the construction of housing, canteens, clubs, medical institutions, stores, and preschool institutions is causing great concern in the life of garrisons and collectives. As the meeting said, the apparatus of Ministry of Defense apartment-building organs and the high commands of branches of the Armed Forces and commanders of military districts and fleets are not showing the necessary persistence in resolving the problem of housing construction and the maintenance of utilities networks and all municipal services. The comprehensive development of the social area must indeed be regarded as a priority.

Attempts to resolve tasks according to the notorious principle of doing the job "at any price" must be firmly prevented. This pernicious style, which has become established in the military construction organization headed by Colonel E. Borisov, for example, and where Colonel Ye. Kiselev is chief of the political section, has resulted in the complete erosion of notions of the normal organization of people's work, life, and leisure, flagrant violations of safety measures, and extreme neglect of political educational work.

The successful solution of the tasks raised by the times depends on the ability of political organs and party organizations to overcome inertia. Many really are renewing their style and methods and are paying more attention to people and to concrete problems. The Ground Forces Political Directorate, for example, is resolutely restructuring its activity and that of subordinate political organs. The General Staff Political Section has begun to deal more specifically with organizational and educational work in primary party organizations. There are encouraging changes in the methods and effectiveness of influence exerted on Communists by a number of party committees.

Nevertheless, no one should feel complacent at these initial steps. The meeting said that special demands are being made on the political organs of the central apparatus. Local political organs follow their example and copy them in many respects, although sometimes they do not copy the best things. Thus they must be deeply aware of their responsibility. Real deeds are needed in the spirit of restructuring so that it is not swamped in words; it is necessary to see the long-term questions, and to strictly monitor their solution. For example, there have been very many resolutions, instructions, and appeals on improving everyday life and ensuring normal conditions for people's life and work, but many military construction organizations continue working in the same old way: fulfill the plan at any price. And political organs are dominated by the administration and these outmoded ideas.

Political organs are not always exacting toward those who merely adopt the pose of a worker from the central apparatus without showing concern for its prestige. And this applies to others, too. These discredited people were chosen and recommended by someone for work at the "center." Political organs must hold Communists accountable for this, too. Political organs must stand firm on party principles in all things.

As the meeting noted, the political directorates of branches of the Armed Forces, the General Staff Political Section, and the political apparatus of main and central directorates are called upon to work energetically, in the spirit of restructuring. Reorganizing the entire system of political, organizational, and ideological work of political organs and party organizations is the key task of the Main Political Directorate.

The most important practical task is to enhance the role and responsibility of primary party organizations for ensuring a businesslike mood and ideological and moral atmosphere in collectives. To ensure that the CPSU Rules are unswervingly observed. And to firmly pursue the line of educating Communists in a spirit of high personal responsibility for their assigned area of work, moral integrity, discipline, performance, professional skill, and initiative.

From the viewpoint of resolving these problems the most important idea of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum is the development of Socialist democracy. Undoubtedly, the question of the democratization of army life has many specific features. The party aktiv meeting said that democratization in our conditions means ensuring the indissoluble unity of one-man command, firm discipline, and unconditional performance of duty with the broad participation of party organizations, the Komsomol, trade unions, and all personnel in the affairs of military collectives and the solution of the tasks facing the Army and the Navy. Democratization means that blatant bureaucratic administration must be rejected, leaders must be in close contact with the mass of military servicemen, distortions of disciplinary practice, crudeness, and vulgarity must be combated, the dignity of each serviceman must be respected, and there must be concern for people.

It is necessary to activate the social institutions existing within the framework of our military organization and to develop democracy in the activity of officers' meetings, officers' courts of honor, warrant officers' and ensigns' councils, general meetings of military servicemen, and women's councils. Trade union organizations must show consistency and determination in developing democracy, as the 18th USSR Trade Union Congress said. While improving the social atmosphere it is also necessary to continue developing openness, criticism, and self-criticism.

Party leadership of the Komsomol needs considerable adjustments. It is necessary to more rapidly and resolutely get rid of outmoded practices in work with young people. The responsibility of all cadres for the activity of Komsomol organizations and the ideological and moral tempering of young servicemen is increasing now.

When speaking about ideological work, the participants in the meeting drew special attention to the need to make it more relevant to life and to ensure that personnel achieve the maximum output in the resolution of concrete tasks. The main point now is to reach out to people, to inform them of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum's ideas, and prompt them to act in the spirit of acceleration and restructuring. This is given new impetus by the party Central Committee's resolution and its Appeal to the Soviet People in connection with the approaching anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The preparation to mark the 70th anniversary of the Great October and the Soviet Armed Forces shouuld raise us to new heights in all our deeds.

Whatever theme was developed from the platform of the meeting, everything was connected in some way with questions of cadres' training, education, and responsibility. The lofty qualities of the Soviet officer corps are well known. At the same time, the shortcomings in cadre policy which were described at the Central Committee January Plenum have also occurred here to a certain extent. Cadres were often poorly studied and a principled approach was not always shown to apppointments. As a result a number of generals and leadership-level officers were dismissed and subjected to official and party punishment. Favoritism and other negative phenomena developed to a certain extent.

Shortcomings in the moral education of leading cadres and distortions in cadre policy have done great harm to the cause. Many omissions could have been avoided had the Main Personnel Directorate and other cadre organs reacted promptly and in a principled way to the incipient problems.

When implementing a modern cadre policy, speakers stressed, it is important to resolve cadre problems efficiently within the central apparatus itself and above all from the viewpoint of ensuring continuity in leadership and the influx of fresh forces. It is necessary to enhance the role of political and theoretical training and the ideological tempering of generals and officers. In view of personnel's increasing social and political activeness, our commanders and political and cadre organs must also be trained to work better.

Cadres' responsibility for their assigned area of work must be increased, officers' discipline must be enhanced, and the atmosphere of mutual exactingness among officers must be reinforced. The mechanism of monitoring at all levels must be improved. Lack of monitoring leads to shortcomings in work and serious breaches of party ethics and discipline.

The report and speeches raised keenly the question of shortcomings in the training and education of cadets and students at military training institutions. The improvement of work with cadres must begin most earnestly with VUZ's themselves because it is there that the future of the Armed Forces is forged. Special attention must be paid to the selection and training of teachers -- they are often unsuited to the job. More concern must be shown for creating a modern material base, resolutely bringing training into line with the requirements of battle, and updating the training programs. Criticism was leveled at the main administration of VUZ's for being slow to resolve the urgent tasks of higher education restructuring.

Restructuring is everyone's cause! That was the main theme of the entire meeting. Concrete actions are needed. The benefit of the new approaches and the increased responsibility of cadres must be visible in the winter training results and in the solution of the training year's tasks. Everywhere 1987 must be the year of real restructuring and the year in which everyone is held strictly accountable for his contribution to it and for the concrete results of restructuring in his assigned areas of work. The task must be put like this: To meet the combat training plans and socialist pledges in full and to a high standard and strengthen discipline is to take practical steps to implement the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum guidelines and the 27th party congress decisions.

Taking part in the work of the party aktiv meeting were N. Savinkin, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Administrative Organs Department, and I. Kosov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee.

SOKOLOV GREETS MPR COUNTERPART ON ARMY JUBILEE

PM181547 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

[Marshal Sokolov message to Mongolian Defense Minister]

[Text] To Colonel General Comrade J. Yondon, Mongolian Defense Minister

Esteemed comrade minister!

On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and on my own account I send you and all Mongolian servicemen the most heartfelt congratulations on the 66th anniversary of the Mongolian People's Army.

We express the firm conviction that the Mongolian People's Army servicemen, determinedly implementing the decisions of the 19th MPRP Congress, will continue to honorably discharge their patriotic duty in defense of socialism's historic gains and the secure protection of the Mongolian people's peaceful creative labor.

Soviet servicemen wish their Mongolian brothers in arms new successes in combat and political training in the interests of further strengthening the defense capability of Mongolia and all the socialist community countries.

Communist greetings.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, USSR Minister of Defense

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN ARMED FORCES DISCUSSED

PM181635 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "International Education"]

[Text] Recalling his years at the front, Hero of the Soviet Union Lieutenant General S. Nurmagambetov writes: "I often wonder: Would I have been able to travel the roads of war, survive until victory, worthily fulfilling my duty to the homeland, and become what I became if I had not constantly felt everywhere and in everything that life-giving force of friendship, if I had not known that beside me in the trench and in the attacking wave were my combat comrades, including servicemen of different nationalities? Together we mourned the dead, together we rejoiced at victories, and together we went into battle, side by side. And every day of the war, every skirmish with the enemy brought more new evidence of the unity of our brother peoples."

These words are consonant with the thoughts of thousands of front-line soldiers who traveled the hard roads of war and felt the life-giving force of the Soviet people's unbreakable fraternity. Today, too, manifestations of friendship, comradeship, and mutual assistance among servicemen of different nationalities are encountered literally at every step in the strenuous daily round of military training. The editors' mail describes many such instances. Perhaps they are not so vivid and effective as those that happened in actual combat, but the force of Soviet patriotism and internationalism is graphically manifested in them too.

The higher our society rises up the rungs of progress, the more clearly the historic significance of the Soviet people's voluntary uniting in an indissoluble alliance is seen. The concentration of the material means and efforts of all the union republics on the scale of a multinational power made it possible to accelerate socialist transformations and defend October's gains during the years of the Great Patriotic War. Socialism put an end ot national oppression and inequality. "Over the years of Soviet power," the CPSU Central Committee Appeal to the Soviet People states, "the peoples' equality and their fraternal cooperation have really been asserted. The economic and cultures of all the republics have been elevated. A unified Soviet people has taken shape, proud of its common achievements and ready to defend socialist gains against all encroachments."

But our achievements, it was pointed out at the 27th CPSU Congress, must not create a picture of problem-free national processes. The special features of social development at the modern stage dictate the need for a more profound, comprehensive approach to tasks of international and patriotic education. And if proper attention is not devoted to it, this does not pass without trace. The roots of what happened in Alma-Ata lay, above all, in serious omissions in ideological work among young people, in weak patriotic and international education. The CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum demanded that we "face up to problems of further developing national relations and intensifying international education."

The entire atmosphere of our life and joint labor, the family and school, the Army, culture, literature, and art, it was pointed out at the Central Committee plenum, are called upon to shape and foster in Soviet people of all nationalities, and primarily in young people, the most noble feelings -- feelings of internationalism and Soviet patriotism.

Today the majority of military collectives are multinational in composition. And in such a collective every serviceman, regardless of nationality, is an equal member of the Army family. This is ensured by our whole way of life. Servicemen of different nationalities are linked and united by communist conviction, Soviet patriotism, and common tasks of defending the unifed socialist motherland. But it would be wrong to think that the tremendous advantages conditioned by the very nature of the socialist army and the objective factors of Soviet society's social cohesion automatically remove all problems of forming strong, battle-worthy, multinational military collectives. The improvement of the personnel's international education was and still is one of the main directions in the activities of commanders, political workers, and party and Komsomol organizations.

There are and can be no insignificant questions or trifles in the education of servicemen in the spirit of friendship and fraternity. Everything is important here, above all a considered approach, specificity of ideological educational work, and its close connection with Army and Navy practice and with the process of restructuring taking place in the armed forces.

All the conditions and opportunities exist for active, purposeful work on the international education of personnel in units and on ships. Skillful use is made of them, for example, in the subunit commanded by Senior Guards Lieutenant P. Rasstrigin. Servicemen of 17 nationalities serve in the company. Mutual assistance and comradely support in training and service have become the law of their life. The commander, the political worker, and the party and Komsomol organizations do everything to strengthen the military collective's friendship and cohesion, to enhance the personnel's combat and political training results on that basis, and to strengthen discipline and regulation order. In party political work there special attention is devoted to asserting in everyone's consciousness the idea that unified combat formation servicemen of different nationalities defend a socialist motherland which is the same for everyone and to propagandizing the Soviet republics' achievements within the unified USSR and the heroic exploits of representatives of different nationalities both during war years and during days of peace.

But, unfortunately, proper attention is still not being devoted to international education everywhere. It is frequently conducted in an unconsidered, campaigning, formal manner and not at the proper ideologial and theoretical standard. Individual commanders, political workers, and party and Komsomol activists do not have to a sufficient degree the art of rallying multinational military collectives. Individual educational work needs improving. Proper concern is not shown everywhere to ensure that those servicemen of non-Russian nationalities who for various reasons have insufficient mastery of the Russian language study it better in the process of serving. In a number of units the work of Russian language study circles is organized formally, servicemen with higher education are not always involved in this work, and use is not made of available aids or of the potential of libraries and clubs.

The further rallying of military collectives and the strengthening of friendship among servicemen of different nationalities must be actively promoted by socialist competition, which this year is being conducted under the motto "We will fulfill the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and mark the 70th anniversary of the Great October with selfless military labor!" It is necessary to ensure that not only servicemen's knowledge and skills but also their moral qualities improve in the course of competition and that collectivism and comradely mutual assistance strengthen.

"The peoples of the USSR," the CPSU Central Committee Appeal to the Soviet People states, "are united by strong friendship, socialist internationalism, and Soviet patriotism." Soviet servicemen, flesh of the people's flesh, are united on the same unbreakable basis. It is a task of great political importance to tirelessly strengthen this friendship.